Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-200
Wednesday
16 October 1991

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-200 16 October 1991

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

AL-SAFIR Interviews PLO's Qaddumi *[11 Oct]* 1
Officials Cited on Peace Efforts *[JORDAN TIMES 15 Oct]* 2
Al-Husayni on Baker Talks, Peace Conference *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 13 Oct]* 3
Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi Comment After Jordan Talks *[Amman Radio]* 4
Further Comments Following Meeting *[Amman Radio]* 4
U.S. Demand for List of Delegates Denied *[JORDAN TIMES 16 Oct]* 5
Jordan Agrees to 'Common Approach' on Conference *[AFP]* 6
AL-DUSTUR Reports Delegates *[16 Oct]* 7
'Arafat Receives European Envoys 11 Oct *[Algiers VOP]* 7
Ambassador to Soviet Union Denies Resignation *[WAKH]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Musa: Palestinian Representation Issue Resolved *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 14 Oct]* 8
Foreign Minister Views Baker, Pankin Visits *[MENA]* 8
Mubarak Receives Syrian President al-Asad *[MENA]* 8
'Expanded' Talks Held *[MENA]* 8
President al-Asad Departs *[MENA]* 9
Information Minister Views Talks *[MENA]* 9
Some Differences Emerge *[Jerusalem Radio]* 9
UK's Major Stops Over in Cairo; Meets Musa *[Cairo Radio]* 9

Libya

Ties With U.S., UK, Arab Neighbors Assessed *[London AL-MAJALLAH 9-15 Oct]* 10
Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Syrian, Egyptian Officials *[Tripoli Radio]* 13

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Cabinet Denounces Israeli Flights Over Iraq *[WAKH]* 14

United Arab Emirates

Israeli Attempts To Scuttle Conference Viewed *[AL-BAYAN 12 Oct]* 14

Yemen

Salih, al-Bid Receive DFLP's Hawatimah *[Sanaa Radio]* 14

IRAQ

UN Urged To Prevent Airspace Violations *[INA]* 15
Rebel Radio Reports Third Turkish Raid *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 15
Daily on Turkish, Israeli 'Aggressions' *[INA]* 15

ISRAEL

More on Levi's Explanation of U.S. Assurances *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 17
Shamir Staff on Levi's 'Defiance' *[Jerusalem TV]* 17
Shamir 'Gloomy and Hesitant' Before Baker Visit *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 17
'No Chance' U.S. Can Be Honest Broker *[DAVAR 16 Oct]* 18
'Additional Corrections' Sought in U.S. Letter *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
U.S. Urged To Keep Promises Made Since Feb *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Demonstrations Planned for Baker Visit *[Jerusalem TV]* 19
'Matter of Time' Until Tehiya Quits Coalition *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Commentaries Consider Baker Talks, U.S. Ties 20
Bush Determined To Topple Shamir *[AL HAMISHMAR 11 Oct]* 20
Beware of 'Vengeful, Vindictive' U.S. *[DAVAR 11 Oct]* 21
U.S. Set on Return to '67 Borders *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 11 Oct]* 22
MK Begin's Bid for Premiership Surprises Likud *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Gaza Hamas Leader Sentenced to Life Plus 15 *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 24
IDF Spokesman: No Evidence Soldier Missing *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 24
Reports on Settlement Moves Throughout Country 24
Soldiers Said Holding Silwan House *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Sharon Explains Policy on Silwan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
4,000 Units Planned in East Jerusalem *[Jerusalem TV]* 25
Site Beyond Jerusalem Green Line *[HA'ARETZ 15 Oct]* 25
Inauguration of Golan Site Rejected *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Magen Sees Quick Prisoner Exchange Unlikely *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Officials Comment Upon Return From PRC *[HADASHOT 15 Oct]* 26
Military Delegation Departs for Talks in Cairo *[HA'ARETZ 15 Oct]* 26
Hungarian Minister Boross Arrives on Visit *[HATZOFE 14 Oct]* 26
Anticrime Memorandum Signed *[Jerusalem TV]* 26
Herzog Leaves on 1-Week State Visit to CSFR *[Jerusalem TV]* 27

JORDAN

King Husayn Addresses National Congress *[Amman Radio]* 28
More on King Husayn, Baker Talks in Amman 35
14 Oct Meeting *[Amman TV]* 35
Baker—U.S. To Restore Aid *[Amman Radio]* 35
King Meets With Top Palestinian Figures 15 Oct *[Amman Radio]* 36
'Highlights' of al-Husayni-'Ashrawi News Conference *[Amman Radio]* 36

LEBANON

Karami, al-Husayni Leave for Damascus Meetings *[VOL]* 38
Al-Hirawi Departs for al-Biqa' *[VOL]* 38
First Meeting Postponed *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Israeli Siege Continues; Food Shortages Reported *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Israeli 'Blockade' Continues *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Army Positions Under Fire *[VOL]* 38
'Awn: Many Officers 'Ready To Follow' Orders *[VOM]* 38

SYRIA

U.S. Secretary of State Arrives in Damascus 15 Oct 39
Al-Shar' Receives Baker *[Damascus Radio]* 39
Al-Asad Receives Baker *[Damascus Radio]* 39
Al-Asad-Baker Talks *[Damascus TV]* 39
Talks Resume 16 Oct *[Damascus Radio]* 39
No Final Reply to Baker Before Consulting With PLO *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 39

SOUTH ASIA

India

President Replies to Iliescu Letter on Abduction *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Center Wants Clarification on Land for Shrine *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Singh Demands U.P. Government Dismissal *[Delhi Radio]* 40

Iran

President on U.S. Support for Israeli Actions *[Tehran Radio]* 40
U.S. Aiming To 'Save' Israel *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Besharati: Velayati to Visit Moscow 'Soon' *[IRNA]* 41

Pakistan

President Terms Saudi Trip 'Extremely Successful' *[Islamabad Radio]* 42
Islamabad Confirms Release of Chinese Engineer *[Islamabad Radio]* 42

Sri Lanka

Elections Offered if LTTE Lays Down Arms *[Colombo International]* 42
Group Condemns Impeachment, No-Trust Motions *[Colombo International]* 43
Speaker Tenders Resignation, Not Accepted *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Speaker Denies Resigning *[Delhi Radio]* 44

Palestinian Affairs

AL-SAFIR Interviews PLO's Qaddumi

NC1510160591 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 11 Oct 91 p 12

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, by Muna al-Sa'id in Paris—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] Reports say that a five-way meeting [between Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and the PLO] will be held shortly. When?
[Qaddumi] The summit may be held after we are invited by Damascus and after Arab contacts agree on a date.

[Al-Sa'id] Will it be a summit or ministerial meeting?
[Qaddumi] A summit.

[Al-Sa'id] Will the meeting be held within a week?
[Qaddumi] Most probably within seven to 10 days.

[Al-Sa'id] In Damascus?
[Qaddumi] Yes.

[Al-Sa'id] Will President Yasir 'Arafat attend?
[Qaddumi] If it is a summit, brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is supposed to travel to Damascus.

[Al-Sa'id] Did you discuss this with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in New York?
[Qaddumi] There was no need to because brother Abu-'Ammar is supposed to attend as president of the state of Palestine.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you expect the summit to adopt a united Arab stand?
[Qaddumi] It must.

[Al-Sa'id] How do you evaluate Jordanian-Palestinian coordination following the Palestinian delegation's visit to Amman?
[Qaddumi] We have visited Jordan, Egypt, and Syria several times and coordination exists.

[Al-Sa'id] Is there real coordination between the PLO and these three countries?
[Qaddumi] There is an understanding between us which we hope will grace coordination on the summit.

[Al-Sa'id] Is there a united Arab stand?
[Qaddumi] During the current session of the UN General Assembly several meetings have been held during which understanding was reached on holding a five-way summit when full coordination could be achieved.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the composition of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation?
[Qaddumi] The PLO has the absolute right to form and name the Palestinian delegation.

[Al-Sa'id] Can you confirm that relations between the PLO and Jordan are good?
[Qaddumi] Yes, with both Jordan and Egypt.

[Al-Sa'id] How do you describe your relations with Syria?
[Qaddumi] They are growing and developing, with understanding dominating the discussions and dialogue between us.

[Al-Sa'id] You said that relations with Egypt are good, but the dialogue between Egypt and the PLO halted almost a year. Have relations improved since the Palestinian delegation's visit to Cairo?
[Qaddumi] The dialogue between Egypt and ourselves has not ceased. Matters concerning the peace process are discussed and coordinated by direct contacts.

[Al-Sa'id] So, the problem lies in the PLO's relations with the Gulf states?
[Qaddumi] There is no direct dialogue between the Gulf states and ourselves apart from a meeting with them during the Arab League council in September.

[Al-Sa'id] Most observers are surprised by your position on the Palestine National Council [PNC] since it is known that you represent Fatah hardliners. Why did you tell the PNC: We must adopt this stand, participation in the peace conference, for it is a matter of life and death.
[Qaddumi] There is no such thing as a flexible or hardline stand. The regional and international circumstances, the balance of power, and developments dictate the need for realism.

[Al-Sa'id] Observers say regional circumstances prompted the PLO to adopt this stand, especially after Egypt and Syria declared their stances on peace.
[Qaddumi] There is no Egyptian or Syrian pressure on the PLO. There used to be pressure from some Arab countries which withheld funds from us and from other Western states.

[Al-Sa'id] How far have Palestinian-American negotiations reached?
[Qaddumi] We maintain contact on the peace process with the United States through brother Faysal al-Husayni and sister Hanan 'Ashrawi with whom discussions continue on several issues—halting settlements, full withdrawal, Palestinian representation, and the status of Jerusalem. We demand other things as proof of Israeli good intentions. We also seek details on a future solution, such as U.S. interpretation of UN Security Council Resolution 242, and recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination which is enshrined in the UN and other international charters.

[Al-Sa'id] Some say the PLO approved the start of the peace process because it did not want to be excluded from it.
[Qaddumi] If we are invited we will not hesitate to attend.

[Al-Sa'id] But what do you expect the Palestinians to achieve?
[Qaddumi] Their inalienable national rights.

[Al-Sa'id] But the PLO's current demands focus on three things: the right to self-determination; ending the Israeli occupation, its withdrawal, halting the building of settlements; and the status of Jerusalem.
[Qaddumi] We have asked the United States to clarify these issues.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you believe the answer will be positive?
[Qaddumi] It should be because we need to know everything if we are going to attend the conference.

[Al-Sa'id] Is there any indication that the dialogue between the PLO and Washington will resume?
[Qaddumi] We have always wanted a direct dialogue between the PLO and the United States but the present dialogue is between our brothers in Jerusalem and the United States.

[Al-Sa'id] You met with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. Is there a role for France?
[Qaddumi] France has a role. As a friendly state, France plays an important role in international policy. It is a member of the UN Security Council and the European Community so it has a role promoting the peace process in coordination with all the parties. France is committed to the EC Madrid declaration on an international peace conference.

[Al-Sa'id] Looking at Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's recent statements, is there a chance the conference will convene?
[Qaddumi] The intransigent and arrogant Israeli stand is an obstacle to the international conference.

Officials Cited on Peace Efforts

JN1510081991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Oct 91 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES Staff reporter Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Central Council has been called to session in Tunis Wednesday and is expected to authorise Palestinian participation to the proposed American-sponsored Middle East peace conference within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, Palestinian officials said Monday.

A number of Palestinian personalities from the Israeli-occupied territories were expected to arrive here today as part of coordination efforts to form the Jordanian-Palestinian team, the official said.

By press time last night, a broad meeting of Palestinian personalities was being held in the Israeli-Occupied West Bank to discuss sending delegates to Amman and choose the personalities who will arrive tomorrow.

But well-informed sources in the West Bank, reached by phone through the United States, told the JORDAN TIMES that a leading Palestine political activist, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, was on his way to Amman from New York.

The PLO officials said that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has approved sending Palestinian personalities from the occupied territories to Amman in response to a condition put forward by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The officials said that the personalities will come to Amman to basically confer with senior PLO officials, who arrived here from Tunis Sunday and Monday. But one official said: "We are not sure how this will take place. The Palestinian personalities might meet Jordanian officials separately or along with PLO officials."

The PLO, the officials said, is concerned that any meeting in Amman should be held and presented as part of coordination between the PLO and the Jordanian Government.

"It has to be clear that the PLO cannot be just pushed out of the picture. All meetings will be held by the approval of the PLO and within the context of coordination between Jordan and the PLO," a PLO official said.

Although the Palestine Central Council (PCC) is the only body authorised by the Palestine National Council (PNC) to make the final decision, the PLO leadership, which met in Tunis over the weekend, has concluded that there was no other option left.

"Despite opposition, we expect the PCC to endorse Palestinian participation in a joint delegation with Jordan," said a senior PLO official.

The PLO official said the Executive Committee had recommended that Palestinians take part in the conference in a joint delegation with Jordan, and the PCC was expected to approve this recommendation, "barring any last-minute surprises."

The PLO, however, is still trying to ensure and insisting on independent Palestinian representation. The officials said that even though the American assurances are still far from sufficient, a mechanism could be worked out with Jordan to ensure an independent Palestinian representation.

"We might be able to work out a mechanism that will ensure independent representation that can be acceptable to the United States," one PLO official said.

In a speech to the National Congress on Saturday, His Majesty King Husayn said that the Palestinian side of the joint team will negotiate the Palestinian dimension of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

King Husayn said that joint delegation will be headed by a Jordanian. A PLO delegation, which is currently visiting Jordan, is requesting a rotating presidency for the joint delegation.

PLO sources, however, said that the inaugural meeting of the peace conference the joint delegation will be held [as published] by Jordan but there will be speeches by both the leaders of the Jordanian side and the head of the Palestinian side.

It was still unclear how the major PLO demand that the Palestinian delegation represent Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, will be solved.

The extremely sensitive issue of the representation of Jerusalem might be solved by choosing a personality from one of the villages which are considered part of the Jerusalem area, like Abu Dis or al- 'Ayzariyah.

News reports from the West Bank Monday suggested trade unionist 'Ali Abu-Hilal, from Abu Dis, be selected as a compromise for the representation of Jerusalem.

But the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, (DFLP), which swapped Mr. Abu-Hilal [for] the bodies of Israeli soldiers in an international Red Cross-brokered deal last month, denied that Mr. Abu-Hilal was nominated.

Senior PLO officials said that the leadership has not selected any delegation yet even though many names are being circulated.

Among the names that were circulated were Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, Sari Nusaybah, Ziyad Abu-Ziyad, Sa'id 'Urayqat, Jamil al-Tarifi, and Elyas Frayj, Hanan 'Ashrawi and Faysal al-Husayni, who have been negotiating with Mr. James Baker for months are strong candidates but it was not clear if they will be "acceptable" to Israel as they are considered to be PLO backers and Mr. al-Husayni as East Jerusalem.

But PLO officials said that the organisation's understanding was that the names will not be submitted for Israeli approval.

The officials said that there have been no official lists submitted by the PLO to any government. "No list has been drawn up yet, but any list will definitely include some of the names that are being circulated," a PLO official said.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) of George Habash, which categorically rejects participation at the peace conference and the DFLP of Nayif Hawatimah are expected to oppose a PCC authorisation of sending a Palestinian team to the conference.

DFLP sources in Amman said that they did not think that the American assurances were sufficient for authorising Palestinian participation.

Al-Husayni on Baker Talks, Peace Conference

NC1610092191 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Oct 91 p 2

[Report on an interview with Faysal al-Husayni by correspondent Safwat Abu-Talib in London; date not given]

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation which concluded its visit to Washington yesterday after meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker—and which also comprised Dr. Hanan al-'Ashrawi and Dr. Zakariya al-Agha—has said that the aim of the visit was to talk to the U.S. Administration following the new reality brought about by the recent resolutions of the Palestine National Council [PNC] in Algiers.

Al-Husayni said he has obtained the draft of the U.S. paper of guarantees or assurances on the peace process and that the Palestinian side has asked some amendments be made to it. He stressed that his negotiations in Washington were not only on behalf of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, but also on behalf of all the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories.

Faysal al-Husayni added: The peace conference is not our sole aim. Our great goal is the comprehensive and just peace for all the peoples in the region, which can be achieved through a conference which represents international legitimacy or through the channels of international legitimacy without going through a conference if Israel places obstacles before this conference.

Al-Husayni was asked: Does this mean you will knock on other doors in search of peace? He replied: Definitely. If Israel impedes the peace conference, this would not mean the end of the road. There are the international legitimacy channels which are represented by the United Nations and the Security Council and we will be compelled to resort to them. The United States will not, in this case, oppose our new move because its attempts to convene the peace conference would have failed as a result of Israeli intransigence. He added: The world order and international ties have changed. We are now dealing with new laws. These changes will be reflected in the Security Council and the United Nations. Therefore, we believe that the Security Council is the appropriate alternative to the peace conference in order to take the appropriate resolutions, as was the case in the Gulf crisis.

On the points of agreement and disagreement with the U.S. stand, al-Husayni said: We agree on the principle of land for peace, Resolution 242, and ending the occupation. The points of difference revolve around Jerusalem. We believe it is part of the occupied territories and that its annexation is illegal. In addition, we agree with the Americans that the settlements are an obstacle to peace, but we insist that they are illegal. At the same time, the Palestinian and U.S. stands on future relations in the region and the confederal relations between us and Jordan remain at variance. Yet we believe that a great rapprochement of views has been achieved between us and the U.S. Administration following our meetings with Baker in Jerusalem and Washington. The present difference is about the course which leads to peace. We are not only talking about ending the occupation, but also demanding Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem.

Al-Husayni noted that most of the points of difference with the United States are procedural and not basic ones. He added: For example, we are committed to confederation in its correct sense, that is, it should be concluded between two countries and should not bypass the stage of establishing the Palestinian state.

I asked him: Were you deputized by the Palestinian people in the occupied territories to travel to the United States? He said: The PLO is acknowledged by all sectors of the Palestinian people inside and outside the territories and by the Arab nation as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The PLO has deputized us to hold dialogue with and contact the U.S. Administration. He added: The Israeli Government so far continues to declare its rejection of all our dialogues, endeavors, and contacts with the United States, even though we have gained the legitimacy to represent the Palestinian people when the PLO empowered us to do so and, before that, when the Arab nation mandated that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

He then said: Israel wants to give legitimacy to its annexation through specific resolutions at the peace conference which is being prepared. Thus the Israelis are sticking to procedural issues which ultimately aim at confirming their annexation of Jerusalem. This is why we are insisting on having Jerusalem represented at the conference.

On his participation in the recent PNC session in Algiers and Israel's announcement that it will try him because of this participation, al-Husayni neither denied nor confirmed this participation. But he said: The recent PNC resolutions dealt with the reality and this gives us the ability to deal with the developments of this stage while taking our higher interests into account. We believe that the resolutions were completely positive and compatible with international developments.

Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi Comment After Jordan Talks

JN1510132991 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1208 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Two leading Palestinian negotiators are in Jordan today for talks with the Jordanian officials and a PLO delegation on the ongoing peace process. They met with the prime minister and held a news conference afterwards. More in the following report:

Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri met at his office today with a Palestinian delegation from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The delegation comprises Mrs. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, and Dr. Zakariya al-Agha. Talks during the meeting dealt with the latest discussions by Jordanian and Palestinian sides held with the U.S. secretary of state.

Later, al-Husayni briefed reporters on his delegation's meeting with the prime minister, saying: "This meeting, it was a continuation of the three meetings which were between the Palestinians and the Jordanians. We hope that the result will help the peace process, will help the political struggle for reaching for a comprehensive peace, and for reaching to the legitimate rights for the Palestinian people."

On the same issue, Mrs. Hanan 'Ashrawi said: "The meeting with the prime minister today is part of the ongoing process of political coordination which has been going on between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides in order to ensure the optimum, the best conditions for the peace process, and in order to safeguard and guarantee Palestinian and Jordanian rights. Therefore, we feel that this is a phase. This is one of the many different steps that are taking place. And ultimately, the Palestinian decision will be taken within the PNC [Palestine National Council] resolutions by the Palestinian Central Council. We are not here to conclude any agreements or arrangements. We are relaying attitudes. We are relaying people's positions in the occupied territories. And of course, the PLO is the only party empowered to speak on behalf of all the Palestinians and to conclude any agreements on behalf of the Palestinians."

Concerning a list of names of Palestinian candidates to the peace conference, Mrs. 'Ashrawi asserted: "If we have any resource, I always answer this question, we have no lack of the human resource. So, it is not a question of names. We do have enough candidates, more than enough who are well qualified, who will be able to carry out the task of negotiations. To us, the main issue is not the names. The main issue now is the issue of principle, and the issue of Palestinian right to choose our own representatives, and our own participation, and our own manner of participation without any veto or coercion. Therefore, the question of Jerusalem is an essential question, and the question of the freedom of choice is another essential question. But as far as names are concerned, we have a tremendous pool, and the leadership will be able to designate individuals according to need and according to ability."

Palestinian sources said al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi will meet in Amman later with a delegation from the Palestine Liberation Organization. PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said the intra-Palestinian meeting comes in the framework of consultations prior to a meeting in Jerusalem between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the Palestinian delegation from the occupied territories.

Further Comments Following Meeting

JN1510170691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1608 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] Following His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with the members of the Palestinian delegation made up of Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Faysal al-Husayni, and Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, the members of the Palestinian delegation held a press conference. Details in the following report.

Faysal al-Husayni described the meeting of the Palestinian delegation with His Majesty King Husayn today as positive and said that various issues pertaining to the peace process were discussed.

Al-Husayni said: We were looking forward to this meeting which is a continuation of the Palestinian-Jordanian contacts. We hoped that these meetings would continue after the delegation's return to Jerusalem.

He noted that during the meeting the discussion touched on the formation of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. The details of this delegation, however, will be agreed on and approved during a meeting with the Council of Ministers.

Replying to a question about the Palestinian's requested adjustments to the final letter of assurances, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said: This letter, which will be discussed during U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Jerusalem tomorrow, is expected to include some suggestions that were presented by the Palestinian side.

In response to a question on the possibility of convening the conference without reaching a solution on major points of disagreement with the Americans—which include the issue of Palestinian representation, a representative of East Jerusalem, and the issue of settlements—Dr. 'Ashrawi said: This, in fact, depends on the rest of the sides taking part in the peace process. She indicated that any conference that does not tackle the essence of the conflict, the Palestine question, cannot be a real peace conference. Therefore, it is necessary to resolve the standing issues and points of disagreement before the beginning of any conference.

Replying to a question on whether Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi and the Palestinian side are optimistic about meeting U.S. Secretary of State Baker in Jerusalem tomorrow, Dr. 'Ashrawi said: I never use the words optimism or pessimism, and I have repeated this over and over. We are very serious and very cautious, because we feel that this is a decisive and critical time. A person must weigh each move and step he takes, and each word he says.

Regarding the names reported by news agencies, and whether she would be a member of the delegation, Dr. 'Ashrawi said: It is not a matter of names. We have enough qualified people to be excellent negotiators. The issue is related rather to defining tasks and applying principles. Then we will have enough names to form any delegation.

U.S. Demand for List of Delegates Denied

JN1610072191 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Oct 91 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership yesterday hardened its position towards Palestinian participation in the proposed Middle East peace conference following American pressures to deliver a list of candidates to the peace talks to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his visit to Amman, according to Palestinian officials in Amman and Tunis.

The officials said that Mr. Baker, who left Amman for Damascus Tuesday, had asked for a list of 30 to 40 candidates from the Israeli-occupied territories, excluding Jerusalem, to be conveyed to him in Amman on Monday or Tuesday.

The PLO, in complete coordination with Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories, rejected the American request which was conveyed through different channels, the officials said.

The officials told the JORDAN TIMES that the U.S. was insisting on receiving the list before Thursday when Mr. Baker is expected to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

The American determination to exclude the representation of Palestinians in the diaspora and East Jerusalem is expected to have negative influence on the debate over the issue by the PLO Central Council, which is scheduled to convene today in Tunis, Palestinian officials said.

Although PLO officials said that the organisation was still expected to endorse a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, it viewed the American pressures as attempts to take the PLO out of the political picture even prior to the convening of the peace conference.

Consequently, the officials said, the PLO is now more determined not to compromise its demands over the status of Jerusalem and representation of Palestinians in the occupied territories and diaspora and its call for an immediate halt of Israeli settlements as prerequisites for Palestinian participation in the peace conference.

According to the officials, the PLO will reject any attempts by the U.S. to discuss the list of Palestinian delegates with Israel. Despite Mr. Baker's denial, the PLO believes that the American official insisted on the names of Palestinian candidates so that he could discuss them with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Thursday.

The officials said that the PLO leadership had decided that if the Americans would allow Israel to veto Palestinian names it will also insist that it would not accept any Israeli negotiators "who were implicated in any way in massacres or torture of Palestinians."

Palestinian officials here and in Tunis said that there was total unity and agreement between the PLO leadership in Tunis and the leaders in the occupied territories towards the terms of Palestinian representation and Mr. Baker's request.

In an attempt to step up the pressure on the PLO, Mr. Baker called Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni Monday to ask him to bring the list with him to Amman.

But Mr. al-Husayni, supported by the Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories, and the PLO leadership in Tunis declined the request, they said.

"Initially Baker stipulated that the Palestinian personalities from the occupied territories should come to Amman to deliver the list of names," said one Palestinian official who preferred to be anonymous.

"The Palestinian response was that the Palestinian leaders will not come to Jordan if Baker stipulates that they should bring the names with them," the official said.

The PLO decision not to send names drew support from leaders in the occupied territories who held an urgent meeting in Jerusalem to discuss the situation.

West Bank sources reached by the JORDAN TIMES through Europe said that the Jerusalem meeting held Monday night, adopted firm resolutions regarding Palestinian representation in the peace conference.

According to the sources, the Jerusalem meeting reached the conclusion that there can be no compromise over either the Arab identity of Jerusalem or representation of the holy city at the talks. The meeting also decided that the Americans should heed the Palestinian demand for an immediate halt to Israeli settlements as a precondition to Palestinian participation in the peace conference.

The sources said that the meeting decided to accept Mr. Baker's condition that four Palestinian leaders come to Amman, provided they worked in complete coordination with the PLO delegation which was already present in Amman.

"The participants decided that the delegation to Amman should work in a way to protect the PLO's role even if that meant going into the meeting with the Jordanian Government as part of the PLO delegation," said one source contacted by the JORDAN TIMES.

"This decision was made with the full awareness that the leaders might face imprisonment in Israel," the source pointed out.

Palestinian officials and sources close to the Palestinian leaders, who visited Amman on Tuesday, said that public opinion in the occupied territories was growing increasingly against any compromises over Jerusalem.

"No Palestinian can go to the negotiating table if East Jerusalem is sacrified," said a Palestinian source close to the PLO leadership.

In comments to the press, Hanan 'Ashrawi, one of the Palestinian leaders who was received by His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister al-Masri on Tuesday, made it clear that the snags remained unresolved.

"The main issue is the issue of Palestinian rights to choose our own representatives and our own manner of participation without any veto or coercion," Dr. 'Ashrawi said after meeting Mr. al-Masri.

"Therefore the question of Jerusalem and the freedom of choice is still the essential question," said the university professor.

Dr. 'Ashrawi said the United States was not concerned with justice and equality for the Palestinians and there was an urgent need to arrive at a clear, strong and united Arab stand prior to convening the peace conference.

"We are not here to conclude any agreements or arrangements, and the PLO is the only party to speak on behalf of the Palestinians and to conclude any agreements," Dr. 'Ashrawi said.

U.S. assurances for Palestinians regarding the Jerusalem status as well as halting Jewish settlements in the occupied territories are "insufficient and fell short of Palestinian demands," he said.

Jordan Agrees to 'Common Approach' on Conference

NC16100905 91 Paris AFP in English 0845 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] Amman, Oct 16 (AFP)—Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization have agreed on a common approach to a Middle East peace conference, a senior PLO official said here Wednesday following talks with Jordanian leaders.

Non-PLO Palestinian figures from the occupied territories, who held a separate meeting here Tuesday with Jordanian officials, agreed that the chairmanship of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation at the conference would be held jointly by a representative from each side.

"All the questions relating to the joint delegation have been resolved," said a reliable Palestinian source.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, told AFP that an overall Jordanian-PLO accord on a common strategy had been reached at talks Tuesday between Jordanian Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri and a PLO delegation led by Mahmud 'Abbas and including 'Abdallah Hurani and Sulayman al-Najjab.

"The two parties agreed on a formula for coordinating policy and action for the next step" towards the peace conference, he said.

He added that the formula would be submitted later Wednesday in Tunis to the PLO Central Council, the policy-making link between the Executive Committee and the Palestine National Council, or parliament.

"If the (council) approves participation in the peace conference, this formula would come into play," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who has been striving to organize the conference, was in Damascus early Wednesday and was due to head later in the day to Jerusalem to try to get a final green light from Israeli authorities for the meeting.

During his stay in Israel Baker is also expected to confer with non-PLO Palestinian figures from the Israeli-occupied territories, three of whom met with Jordanian

officials Tuesday and have been the Baker's principal Palestinian interlocutors on seven previous trips to the Middle East this year.

Palestinian notables Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi and Zakariya al-Agha left Amman Wednesday for the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

At a press conference Tuesday they stressed that the PLO was the only authentic representative of the Palestinians.

Israel has vowed not to attend a peace conference alongside any Palestinian with links to the PLO, which it dismisses as a terrorist group.

AL-DUSTUR Reports Delegates

JN1610090991 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Oct 91 pp 1, 20

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] Palestinian representation within the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace conference has been the focal point of intensive contacts and discussions in Amman in the past two days between Jordanian, Palestinian, and U.S. officials.

AL-DUSTUR has learned that a list comprising seven members and three "reserve" members representing the territories and political and ideological trends—all of whom are from the occupied homeland—could be adopted following the meetings that have focused in recent weeks on resolving the problem of Palestinian representation.

The list, believed to be final, has gained initial U.S. approval. It comprises the following principal members: Sa'ib 'Urayqat and Radwan Abu-'Ayyash (representing Nabulus), Ziyad Abu-Zayyad (Ramallah), Ilyas Frayj (Bethlehem), Zakariyah al-Agha and Furayh Abu-Midyin (Gaza), and Ghassan al-Khatib for the Palestinian Communist Party.

The list also comprises three reserve members: Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, 'Ali Abu-Hilal, and Sami al-Kilani. These names represent other political factions, parties, and trends excluding the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which has rejected the peace plan in the Middle East.

Sources close to the Palestinian delegation have pointed out that the representation of Jerusalem is still under discussion and that a compromise is being considered on outside representation of Palestine by people who enjoy Jordanian nationality, including Jerusalemites, within the Jordanian delegation.

The sources added that the U.S. Administration has not yet responded to Palestinian demands related to the right of self-determination, Jerusalem, and the building of settlements. The U.S. Administration promises, however, to exert pressure on Israel immediately after the beginning of negotiations to stop settlement activity, which would stop in exchange for an Arab announcement on lifting the economic embargo against Israel—a proposal made by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak almost two months after the industrial countries' summit.

'Arafat Receives European Envoys 11 Oct

LD1210195991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, yesterday evening in Tunis received the ambassadors of the European troika, led by the ambassador of the Netherlands, in addition to the delegate representing the EC. The meeting was attended by Brother Abu Lutf [Faruq qaddumi], head of the PLO's Political Department.

The brother president received from the ambassadors a copy of a statement by the EC on the peace process in the Middle East and the results of the Palestine National Council session in Algiers. The ambassadors affirmed the commitment of their countries to the principled positions adopted by the EC, especially as expressed in the Venice and Madrid statements. For his part the brother president expressed his deepest thanks to the EC for valuing the results of the PNC [Palestinian National Council] proceedings and for being interested in playing an effective role in the peace process. He welcomed this role. Brother Abu-'Ammar also drew the attention of the EC ambassadors to the mention of the resolution considering Zionism as one form of racism in the statement on the peace process in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Ambassador to Soviet Union Denies Resignation

JN1210094291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0700 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] Tunis, 12 Oct (WAKH)—Nabil 'Amr, ambassador of the state of Palestine, denied reports that he resigned from his post and the PLO.

Reacting to a report published by the London-based AL-HAYAH, the PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY in Tunis cites the Palestinian ambassador as saying that what was reported about this subject are mere rumors.

Egypt

Musa: Palestinian Representation Issue Resolved

TA1410093491 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Oct 91 p 7

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by correspondent Smadar Peri in Cairo "yesterday"]

[Text] The Arab side has serious doubts about the Israeli Government's willingness to withdraw from the territories in return for peace. President al-Asad, for example, is not hesitating to attend a peace conference with Israel, but he has doubts about Israel's willingness to withdraw from the Golan Heights.

"No one has asked Israel to pull out and give everything away and receive nothing in return from the other side. The Arabs—including Syria—are willing to reach an arrangement with Israel, to open the borders and have normal ties, provided Israel accepts the principle of territories for peace."

These remarks were made yesterday by Egypt's Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in an exclusive interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT. According to him, the names of the Palestinian delegation members will be published in a few days, and Israel will have no reason to veto the candidates. "The lists that were prepared include residents of the territories who will come to the peace conference in the framework of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. I believe that the problem of Palestinian representation has been resolved."

The Egyptian foreign minister stressed that Jerusalem must be included in the issues negotiated between Israel and the Arabs. "The status of Jerusalem has to be discussed, and a solution must be found. After all, Prime Minister Shamir said that 'everything is open to negotiation.'"

When asked what are the chances that the peace conference would convene, he did not sound very optimistic: "Because of the obstacles and differences, I believe there is a 50-percent chance that the conference will convene."

Foreign Minister Views Baker, Pankin Visits

NC1310130291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin will visit Egypt on Monday for talks on giving momentum to the peace efforts and Soviet participation in these efforts.

In a statement today, 'Amr Musa said that an agreement can be reached on the venue and date of the peace conference, the purpose of which is well known. As for other issues, he said, we hope to overcome them during the talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who is due to arrive in Cairo later today.

'Amr Musa noted that Egypt lays emphasis on the peace process as a whole and it must be understood that we are not interested only in convening the peace conference but in the peace process, which is the crux of the matter. Therefore, he said, it must be clear and understood that without the principle of "land for peace" no peace can be achieved, and without the recognition of everybody's right to security and self-determination, there can be no peace process.

'Amr Musa expressed hope that the talks with the U.S. secretary of state and the Soviet foreign minister will succeed so that we will be able to eliminate the obstacles and agree on all the arrangements for convening the conference.

The Egyptian foreign minister reiterated in conclusion that what is important is the peace process and not the convening of the peace conference.

Mubarak Receives Syrian President al-Asad

NC1210121991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a short visit to Egypt. President Husni Mubarak led those who received the Syrian president at the airport and then accompanied his guest to the presidential offices. The two presidents are expected to hold a round of talks that will continue over a working lunch to be hosted by President Mubarak in honor of President al-Asad. The talks between the two leaders will focus on the Middle East conflict and the peace conference on the eve of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's arrival in Cairo tomorrow evening.

'Expanded' Talks Held

NC1210134091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad held an expanded session of talks in Cairo this afternoon.

The talks were attended on the Egyptian side by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first undersecretary and director of the president's office for political affairs; and Egyptian ambassador in Damascus Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Attending the talks on the Syrian side were Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Syrian Ambassador in Cairo Isa Darwish.

President al-Asad Departs

NC1210162091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1609 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad left Cairo this evening after a short visit of several hours to Egypt, during which he held important talks with President Husni Mubarak on the Middle East peace process. President Mubarak saw President al-Asad off at Cairo International Airport.

Information Minister Views Talks

NC1210190091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has reported that during their meeting in Cairo today, President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad made a comprehensive assessment of the current Arab situation. He said that they also reviewed current steps, contacts, and the proposed views on convening a Middle East peace conference. He said the aim is to attain a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Al-Sharif declared that today's summit meeting was held in the context of the fraternal and special relations between Egypt and Syria.

He added that Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad held a private meeting immediately after the Syrian president arrived in Cairo today. This was followed by an expanded meeting which was attended by the delegation accompanying the Syrian president, which included Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The Egyptian delegation to the talks included Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Safwat al-Sharif, Dr. Usamah al-Baz, the Foreign Ministry first undersecretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, and the two countries' ambassadors in Cairo and Damascus.

Al-Sharif added that the Egyptian-Syrian summit talks dealt with all the chief issues and proposals connected with the peace conference and the two countries' views on them. He said the two sides emphasized the need to respect UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle.

He added that the talks were characterized by clarity and reflected the spirit of full understanding and the identical Egyptian-Syrian views on the matters discussed.

He said that the discussions included a comprehensive analysis of the current international changes and positions and their political and economic effects on the region's countries and issues.

The Egyptian information minister added that the Arab leaders Mubarak and al-Asad stressed the importance of coordinating and unifying the Arab positions on the current fateful issues at this critical stage in the history of the Arab nation's causes.

Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad continued their talks during a luncheon President Mubarak hosted, which the members of President Hafiz al-Asad's delegation and the Egyptian foreign and information ministers attended.

President al-Asad's visit to Egypt today was a part of the ongoing coordination and consultation between the two countries prior to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's eighth Middle East tour. The tour, which will begin with a visit to Egypt on 13 October, comes within the context of preparing to hold the peace conference. President al-Asad left Cairo earlier today after a brief visit to Egypt.

Some Differences Emerge

TA1310202891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 13 Oct 91

[Text] The Egyptian president's office has told reporter Yehoshu'a Me'iri that differences emerged in the Mubarak-al-Asad meeting, as a result of which Egypt has decided to defer its reply to Syria on the summit issue.

President al-Asad has moderated his objection to the discussion of common water interests with Israel but has raised a new point: He now demands that at the conclusion of the summit conference, a joint communique be issued stipulating that the Arabs are not to agree to separate solutions and that only a comprehensive solution based on Security Council resolutions is to be found acceptable.

President Mubarak said there should be no linkage between the Arab summit conference and the peace conference because such linkage is liable to toughen Israel's positions.

UK's Major Stops Over in Cairo; Meets Musa

NC1410160791 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] British Prime Minister John Major stopped over at Cairo airport this afternoon where he held talks with Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign liaison, and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on developments in the Middle East.

Major said Britain was looking forward to convening a Middle East peace conference and hoped that talks to solve the problem were heading for success. Major pointed out that Britain has not decided which candidate it will support for the UN secretary general's position.

The British prime minister said Iraqi nuclear installations were being inspected because Iraq had invaded a neighboring country. He added that work was being done to ensure the Security Council resolution was implemented.

Libya

Ties With U.S., UK, Arab Neighbors Assessed

PM1510151591 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 9-15 Oct 91 pp 24-28

[Interview with Ahmad Qadhdhaf-al-Damm, Libyan coordinator of Libyan-Egyptian relations, by 'Abd-al-Latif al-Minawi in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Minawi] For many years Libya was known to be a source of worry for its neighbors—Egypt, Chad, Tunisia, or Algeria—at various stages. But it is noted that Libya is now enjoying neighborly relations with its neighbors. With some parties, in fact, they are developing beyond the status of just good relations. What is the secret behind the change? Is it the new realism in Libya's foreign policy, or is it a development which you attribute to the foreign parties?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Damm] Libya the revolution has been pursuing a straight line since 1969. And as a result of that clear policy, some problems or misunderstandings on the part of some of the parties around us emerged—which had an impact on our relations with them. Some of the policies around us changed, but we continued our straight line. The changes that have occurred in the leaderships of these states have proved the correctness and clarity of the Libyan position. The proof of this is the fact that relations returned strong and staunch after changes in those leaderships, whether in Tunisia, Chad, Egypt, or Sudan. In my view, there has been no change in Libyan policy in the way some people have interpreted it. Libya was indicted because of a failure to understand the nature of the revolution there. Libya is a rich country with a population of 4 million and an area of 2 million square km, so there can be no talk about ambitions on its part. The state of fear of Libya is imaginary and instigated by hostile forces.

[Al-Minawi] Did attempts to fuel problems or export Libya's revolutionary ideology to its neighbors lead to the tension between the two countries [not further specified]?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Damm] The Libyan revolution started with a clear ideology. We say that no one can act on behalf of the people, and in the revolution's rules we say that we do not act for anyone in terms of changing their regime, representing them, or speaking in their name or in terms of internal policies and choices. We respect others' choice as long as they respect our choices. So this (reference in the question) is untrue.

[Al-Minawi] It is clear that since Bush assumed power and Reagan left the U.S. presidency the U.S. Administration no longer levels major criticism at Libya, contrary to what used to happen in the past. And there have been reports at various times of Libyan-U.S. meetings at various levels in European or Arab capitals. What is the form of U.S.-Libyan relations at present? And what has been agreed between the two countries?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Damm] This is further proof that Libyan policy is fixed and that the others have changed. When Reagan was replaced we heard nothing at all about any Libyan-U.S. problem. Nor did we hear threats or so-called accusations leveled at Libya, as used to happen from time to time. This is because a new administration emerged in the United States, and thus the pretexts ended with the end of the Reagan administration's era.

We have no special differences with the United States, or economic problems, or any form of relations. If we agree or disagree with it, we agree or disagree with it over Arab issues. Many states have made attempts to mediate between us and them. Most of the Arab states have tried. These contacts are continuing, and meetings also took place in the past, even with the former administration, but they did not succeed because we did not accept any tutelage or any U.S. conditions. In fact we strongly rejected them.

[Al-Minawi] What were the U.S. conditions?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Damm] The previous administration wanted us to be either subservient or an enemy. And when we choose between slavery and enmity, we prefer to be enemies. The present administration is more logical. In fact, its political language is different. The disagreement has narrowed, and there are no longer fundamental differences. We are with the Arabs, and when the United States differs with the Arabs we become the first to differ with it.

[Al-Minawi] Did you reject specific requests from the previous administration? What are the requests which you rejected?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Damm] The previous administration perpetrated the ugliest thing that can be said about organized state terrorism against a peaceful people, to the extent that it attacked the home of brother Mu'ammar [al-Qadhdhafi] at two o'clock in the morning with 170 aircraft and tried to kill him. It also recruited some Libyan agents and tried to use them against their own country. It also tried to kill brother Mu'ammar by poison and other various means. And it tried to infiltrate mercenaries via Chad to form a "contra" force against Libya. That administration tried to recruit students in the United States and Britain, offering money as an inducement. And they tried a brainwashing process through the media and the intelligence service. But all this failed; most of these people returned to Libya and the United States failed in all its hostile activities against Libya. The latest was the fall of its agent in Chad. We refuse to be slaves. We did not allow its maneuvers to be conducted in the Gulf of Sidra, nor did we agree to its schemes against the Arabs. Nor did we allow it to interfere in our internal affairs.

[Al-Minawi] Can we say that the requests included international inspection on the basis of placing some Libyan industries under control?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Dumm] We suffered a great deal from U.S. provocation. As for the present administration, we would like economic, cultural, and scientific cooperation with it. We would also like to develop some projects with it in the Jamahiriyah and to create a language of logical political dialogue. And in light of what we heard from some Arab leaders, we were optimistic that this administration could do justice to the Arabs in their cause, the Palestinian cause, which is a fundamental point of disagreement between us and the United States. In fact we have sensed that there is a big difference between the political language of the Reagan administration and that of the Bush administration.

[Al-Minawi] But it was the Bush administration which endorsed the continuation of the economic embargo against Libya early this year.

[Qadhdhaf-al-Dumm] I believe that is a routine measure. Besides, eight years of counterpropaganda in the United States have prevented the present U.S. Administration from taking a quick and positive step toward Libya. The dialogue is continuing; but we have not yet reached an agreement whereby we can talk about or oppose this point. For our part, we are astonished at this hostile U.S. position. In fact we see no logical justifications for the continuation of the boycott against us and the continuation of the attacks against us by some media services.

[Al-Minawi] Was a U.S. promise made that the economic embargo would be ended?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Dumm] That embargo or dispute resulted from the state of hostility, and when it it ends all its results end.

[Al-Minawi] Will Libya stop supporting the liberation or revolutionary movements in Latin America?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Dumm] As a free country Libya supports right, justice, and just causes. And it defends the oppressed peoples. This is a question that has nothing to do with the United States. It is a people's, indeed a nation's, choice. We are Arabs and entitled to support the just causes and we also have an independent view. We Arabs are a power in the world, and we have a role. We are not sheep. We do not engage in hostile activities against the United States without any justification. The proof is that when the United States engages in activity anywhere in the world, that is its right as long as it is not hostile to us or takes no position against us. It is not necessary that we agree on all issues with it or with any other state.

[Al-Minawi] Has the economic embargo imposed by the United States affected Libya considerably?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Dumm] They think so, but the opposite is true: We have benefited a lot from the U.S. embargo, as we have relied on ourselves. The oil in Libya is now for the Libyans alone. They thought after their departure that Libya would be finished. On the contrary, oil projects have doubled with purely Libyan management, Libyan companies, Libyan technicians, Libyan young men, and Libyan experts. The boycott imposed on us has spared us some of the worthless commodities which, regrettably, used to be imported to Libya and some parts of the Arab world. So we have saved our money spent on trivia from the West. The boycott gave the Libyans the spirit of challenge, so they turned to production, agriculture, and self-reliance. It has benefited us much. In fact we thank God for the boycott. [passage omitted]

[Al-Minawi] What about Libyan relations with Western Europe, specifically relations between Libya and Britain, as it has been reported that meetings between Libyan and British officials have taken place in various areas of the world? Did you reach a new formula for Libyan-British relations at these meetings?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Damm] After Thatcher's departure from the cabinet—as she was Reagan's ally and maintained a strong relationship with him—and the arrival of a new prime minister, namely Major, matters became much better. Britain has several thousand workers and engineers working in Libya. And its companies and economic interests are present in Libya. Britain has great experience and will deal realistically with the Jamahiriyah. We welcome this realistic position and we have no problem with the British people. All the problems fabricated are not based on any logic.

[Al-Minawi] Do you expect a diplomatic exchange between Libya and Britain?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Damm] We now have officers and Libyan employees in Britain. And there are British employees in Libya. And I believe that that will develop within a short period into diplomatic representation. For our part, we have no objection to the establishment of a normal relationship with Britain, and, in my view, they too have no objection. The contacts are continuing, even after the recent storm after which brother Mu'ammar replied to them. They tried to harm Libya's pride and we strongly told them: We will regard Britain as nonexistent on the map, and we do not need a relationship with Britain. But if they want a relationship with us, we welcome that. Certainly they have no interest in being hostile to us, nor do we have any interest in being hostile to them. [passage omitted]

[Al-Minawi] Some people's interpretation of Libya's improvement of its relations with Egypt in the recent stage is that Libya turned in that direction on the grounds that Cairo was the last door able to rescue the Libyan regime from internal dangers it might face and because of its full awareness of the Libyan people's satisfaction with strong relations with Egypt. What is your comment?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Damm] Libya has no government to make it fear the people. Libya is governed by the masses, and it is the masses who decide. The people in Libya are the ones who decide foreign policy. And people's Libya opened its borders with Egypt even before the meeting with President Husni Mubarak.

[Al-Minawi] There is another interpretation of relations with Egypt, namely that it is a desire on your part to open a door to relations with the Western states and the United States, and that Egypt was that door. Was that the aim or the outcome?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Dumm] I do not forget. Our relations with the West are relations of interests. They exploit oil and we exploit some science; that is the basis of our relations, and we can develop them or sever them. As for for our relations with Egypt, they are not at all subject to conditions from European or other states. On the contrary, in my view, if Libyan-Egyptian relations were not excellent, the United States would have restored its relations with us immediately.

[Al-Minawi] How does Libya benefit from its unionist relations with Egypt?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Dumm] In Libya there is a regime that is willing to place all its capabilities at Egypt's disposal. We do not measure the benefit or the lack of it. As a revolution we want to restore this nation's pride, and here the sacrifices are of little importance. We want to correct this reversed situation. The Germans provided 40 billions [unit not specified] to East Germany. We call on the Arab states to use this logic. It might look like a material loss in the short term, but in the longer term we gain in terms of their unification. Nevertheless, we benefit from relations with Egypt.

[Al-Minawi] The abolition of borders with Egypt was announced [by Libya] in March. Egypt announced the abolition of borders with Libya in July. The Egyptian announcement coincided with the efforts to convene a peace conference. Some saw the Egyptian move as the price of neutralizing Libya's position on the peace conference.

[Qadhdhaf-al-Dumm] Many people interpreted it as a move to contain Libya. Others say that Egypt needs employment for the workers who left Kuwait. All these are superficial criteria. However, if that was the case, we would welcome it because that is a positive aspect and we would welcome Egyptian assistance just as we are willing to help Egypt at any time, even if that was interpreted by some as deception, plotting, or some way of avoiding taking a stand. The masses want that and it is in their interest. Incidentally, our position is quite clear. We demand the Palestine of 1948 for which royalist Egypt fought.

[Al-Minawi] We hear of a great development in Libyan-Egyptian relations, but the question is always about results. For example, the question of settling Egyptian peasants [in Libya]. A year has now passed but we have only heard about the settlement of 100 families. What is the fate of that plan, and why has it been paralyzed for so long?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Dumm] It has not been paralyzed. It is being carefully studied, and special programs are being drawn up. We have carried out a complete study of the matter. We just want to proceed carefully and according to studies in order to achieve positive results. [passage omitted]

[Al-Minawi] Do you not fear that a large Egyptian presence in the new society might have certain social and political repercussions?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Damm] We accept that because the revolution does not say "this person is Egyptian and that one is Libyan," that it says these are Arabs.

[Al-Minawi] Even if that resulted in a change of the nature of the current regime?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Damm] The current regime is a popular jamahiri regime, and we would welcome a merger of the Egyptian and Libyan masses, be it political or economic. [passage omitted]

[Al-Minawi] If Libya believes Egypt and Libya to be one country and if it strongly and urgently wants unity between the two countries, why does it not announce that it would shoulder a part of Egypt's debts to ease Egypt's economic burden and try to increase the scope for more options for Egyptian policymakers?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Damm] I believe that if there was such an Egyptian suggestion the Libyan people's congresses would not hesitate, in the event of a complete merger, to shoulder the responsibility for these burdens. We were prodded by the attitude of West Germany which sacrificed billions to ease the suffering of East Germany. We call for a merger that would unify all Libyan and Egyptian resources.

[Al-Minawi] The voice of the Libyan opposition used to be loudest in Egypt but it is now completely silent there. Is that because of an agreement with the opposition or because that opposition felt that it was futile for it to operate from Egypt and therefore moved its activity abroad, or is it a result of an agreement with some parties, including Egypt, to silence every voice opposed to Libya inside Egypt?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Damm] There is no presidential rule in Libya to warrant opposition. Libya has people's congresses. The people rule. There is no traditional regime. The opposition is inside the people's congresses. People agree and disagree in broad daylight and in full freedom on issues concerning the country. Those who were in Egypt or some countries were, regrettably, tools used by the intelligence services of other states which had succeeded at one stage in recruiting some individuals to work for the enemies. When relations are restored between us and any state, these elements disappear. [passage omitted]

[Al-Minawi] There have long been reports of coup attempts in Libya. When was the last coup attempt against Colonel al-Qadhdhafi?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Damm] We hear about these coup attempts from the foreign media. We have heard a lot

about coup attempts and assassination attempts, but the truth is quite different. How could there be a coup against the people?

[Al-Minawi] What about Egyptian-Sudanese relations and Libya as a third party in that? What specific role is Libya playing between Egypt and Sudan?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Damm] We see Egypt and Sudan as brothers adjacent to Libya, and we believe that one state could emerge. We believe that that a triangle could form the basis of a strong Arab state. What is lacking in Sudan can be found in Libya and vice versa. All three complement one another and would constitute a formidable state in this era. We care as much about Egyptian-Sudanese relations as we do about Libyan-Egyptian relations. The brothers in Egypt fully understand that. The tension in Egyptian-Sudanese relations has nearly disappeared. A phase of Egyptian-Sudanese cooperation will begin very soon, along with Libya. [passage omitted]

[Al-Minawi] When you were in Cairo you must have heard about the apparent Egyptian moral support for the Sudanese opposition. Will that continue or will it stop?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Dumm] I have no knowledge of Egyptian support for the Sudanese opposition.

[Al-Minawi] Not even of the presence of that opposition inside Egypt?

[Qadhdhaf-al-Damm] I believe that Egypt is a refuge for all stray Arabs. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Syrian, Egyptian Officials

LD13!0131891 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Oct 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution this afternoon received Syrian Vice President 'Abd- al-Halim Khaddam, who conveyed a verbal message from Syrian President President Hafiz al-Asad on current developments on the Arab and international scenes and on the results of the meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The brother leader of the revolution also met this afternoon with Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. The talks were within the continuous consultation and exchange of views between the two countries, and brother Safwat al-Sharif informed the brother leader about the latest developments in pan-Arab affairs.

Bahrain

Cabinet Denounces Israeli Flights Over Iraq

JN1310130091 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Manama, 13 Oct (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain has denounced Israel's provocative acts, demonstrated by the Israeli warplanes' flights over Iraqi territory after they have violated the airspace of a number of Arab countries. Bahrain also denounced the continued Israeli policy to build Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories and forcefully seize Palestinian homes, a policy which creates a climate of tension and concern in the region and foils the efforts aimed at reaching a peaceful settlement.

This emerged in a Bahraini Council of Ministers' session held today under Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah.

In a statement following the session, Transportation and Communication Minister Ibrahim Muhammad Hasan Humaydan said his highness the prime minister opened the session by reviewing the political developments on the Arab and international levels in the light of the efforts to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Humaydan added that his highness the prime minister expressed the hope that the current eighth Middle East tour by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker would result in progress in resolving all the outstanding problems and the convening of the peace conference at the earliest possible opportunity. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Israeli Attempts To Scuttle Conference Viewed

JN1310152891 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 12 Oct 91 p 1

[Editorial: "The Meaning Behind Israel's Hard Line"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's latest Middle East tour begins Saturday. [as published] Over the past two days, the U.S. Administration has issued implicit, strongly-worded warnings about attempts to scuttle efforts to promote the proposed peace conference.

Baker was clear in his reference to the hardline parties that would like to see the peace process stalled, and, to that end, are engaging in irresponsible actions that threaten to unravel the efforts being invested in the interest of a solution to the Middle East problem. The reference was to some Israeli groups.

U.S. Defense Secretay Dick Cheney, for his part, cited Israeli flights over Arab territory, accusing Israel of imperiling U.S. efforts to convene the conference.

The Israeli Government has made things worse by announcing the construction of a new settlement of 20,000 housing units to absorb Jewish immigrants, thus defying the wish of United States and the entire world that settlement activity be halted pending the convocation of the conference.

Evidently then, Israel is trying all means to abort the Middle East peace process, in the belief that its interests will not be served by peace, because it is a nation founded on racism, violence, and terror—words that best characterize its prime minister, housing minister, and defense minister and military.

Even moderate Israeli leaders—labor leader and former Prime Minister Peres, for one—came out in support of Israeli aircraft violations of Arab airspace.

Arab states are well advised to exercise utmost restraint so as to deny Israel a precious chance to kill the forthcoming peace conference. The same goes for extremist Palestinian groups, since just one operation will hand Israel the chance it is looking for.

Israel's isolation in the world is growing day by day, its cards and real intentions having been revealed. It is going to the conference against its will. The Arab states owe it to themselves to help Washington and Arab capitals lead Israel to the conference.

Yemen

Salih, al-Bid Receive DFLP's Hawatimah

JN1210131991 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, as well brothers Salim Salih Muhammad and 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, members of the Presidential Council, received Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Brother Hawatimah extended to the brother chairman, vice chairman, and the members of the Presidential Council congratulations on our people's celebrations on the anniversaries of the Yemeni 26 September and 14 October revolutions. He also briefed them on the developments of the Palestine question in light of the Palestinian, Arab, and international situation. He also briefed them on the results of the recent meetings of the Palestine National Council in Algiers, and reviewed the Palestinian constants toward the efforts being made to convene a conference for peace in the region.

UN Urged To Prevent Airspace Violations

JN1510133991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)—Iraq has warned against a repeat of the Israeli aggression against its skies, and said that should this happen, it would not be responsible for the safety of any UN planes flying in the same area.

In a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn urged the United Nations and the Security Council to take firm measures to prevent Israel from repeating the violations, and to provide him with guarantees to this effect. The following is the text of the message.

His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations.

Your Excellency, I have the honor to refer to my two successive letters to you. The first, dated 6 October 1991, concerns the Israeli warplanes' violation of Iraqi airspace in western Iraq on 4 October 1991 at a time when UN helicopters were overflying the same region. The second letter, dated 12 October 1991, concerns a statement made by U.S. White House Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater on 9 October 1991, in which he said the U.S. authorities are supplying Israel with information they obtain about Iraq. I would like to raise an extremely important and sensitive issue that requires from Your Excellency and the UN Security Council due attention and seriousness.

Four Israeli F-15 fighter-bombers violated Iraqi airspace on Friday, 4 October 1991. This dangerous violation coincided with overflights by the helicopters used by the UN inspectors in the same region. In the combat military sense, the Israeli aircraft were close to the UN helicopters. A tragic fate could have befallen the UN helicopters had the Israeli aircraft attacked targets inside Iraqi territory.

The timing of the Israeli violation of Iraqi airspace was not a coincidence, but a deliberate action that was evidently aimed at confusing our air defenses, alerted in anticipation of enemy violation of Iraqi airspace, to cause them to hit UN helicopters.

The presence of UN helicopters at the same time and in the same area prevented the Iraqi air defenses from taking the required defensive measures against the aggression of the Israeli aircraft.

Your Excellency: We have the right to ask what will happen if Israeli planes attack targets in Baghdad or any other place in Iraq, taking advantage of the presence of UN planes in the airspace.

Such a situation, which is highly likely, will place us in a difficult position: We will either act to prevent the Israeli aggression—consequently endangering the UN planes—or refrain from defending our country and let the Israelis attack whatever they want to attack, especially since the Israelis have stressed in many official statements that they will repeat their violations of Iraqi airspace, claiming that this is necessary for Israel's security.

Your Excellency: We have raised this subject seriously and in detail with Mr. Rolf Ekeus, head of the special committee, during his recent visit to Baghdad 4-6 October 1991.

I call upon you to take this subject into consideration. Either Your Excellency and the Security Council take the necessary and decisive measures to prevent Israel from repeating its violations of Iraqi airspace, and give us assurances to this effect; or else, in the event of a new Israeli aggression against our airspace, where UN planes are present, we will not be responsible for the safety of those planes and the UN inspectors aboard them when we react to the aggression of the Israeli warplanes to defend our country and interests, which is a legitimate right guaranteed by international law and the UN Charter.

We are disappointed that the Security Council failed to react strongly to the serious aggressive act perpetrated by Israel against Iraq. I cannot but say that the position of the Security Council, up to this point, once again underscores its policy of double standards.

I will be grateful to receive your reply to this letter. I hope that Your Excellency will ensure that my letter will be circulated as a Security Council document. Please accept my deepest appreciation.

Rebel Radio Reports Third Turkish Raid

NC1510182491 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1420 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] Turkish air and land forces continue their infringement on our northern borders. Our people are being subjected to further sufferings in addition to the hardships they are encountering because of the 'Aflaqist regime.

A total of 10 Turkish fighter planes have carried out a third raid against villages in our northern region.

In other news, our news sources report that Turkish land troops are 9 km into our territory.

According to our sources abroad, other groups of Turkish infantry are heading toward our borders. The Turkish Government's excuse for these operations is that they are attacking opposition elements who have entered Iraqi territory.

Daily on Turkish, Israeli 'Aggressions'

JN1210113891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has said the Israeli and Turkish aggressions are a link in the chain of the broad U.S. conspiracy against Iraq and the process of distributing roles among parties which

have not been excluded from participation in the U.S. war against the people of Iraq.

In an article today under the headline "The Silent Ones," the paper adds that the Israeli and Turkish aggressions against Iraq are aimed at removing any hesitation on the part of Arabs who need a strong justification for achieving a peace treaty with Israel before the peace opportunity is lost, as Washington described the Israeli operation in Iraqi airspace.

The paper says that the provocative aggressive Zionist overflights in Iraq on 4 October came more than 10 years after the treacherous Zionist air aggression against the peaceful Tammuz nuclear reactor and after the Zionist participation in the U.S.-led multinational aggression against Iraq. The overflights also came amid all that has been said and published about current and past U.S.-backed Zionist military and nonmilitary espionage activity on the Iraqi border with Turkey.

The paper says that in both air aggressions of 1981 and this year, the Israeli aircraft followed the same route into and out of Iraq through Syria, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia.

The paper explains that if the first aggression on the Tammuz reactor took place during the Iraq-Iran war, so the Zionist aircraft's violation of Iraqi airspace relies on continued aggression led by the United States against Iraq. This aggression has taken various forms ranging from direct armed aggression and economic blockade to the dispatch of inspection teams with some of their members being carefully chosen by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and tasked with political missions under the cover of science. Such teams also tend to be provocative and create tensions to pave the way for a fresh military action against Iraq.

The paper says that the United States always rejected any sanctions against the Zionists who attacked the Iraqi peaceful nuclear reactor in 1981 and refused so far to subject the Zionist nuclear installations and its entire biological and chemical arsenal to international inspection. The United States merely regretted the attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor. Now, the United States is reiterating its regret for the new aggressive operation which, like the previous one, would not have taken place without its approval and satisfaction.

The paper adds that it is worth noting that Turkey wished to play a role to complement the Israeli role against Iraq. Thus, a few days after the Zionist aircraft's violation of the Iraqi airspace, Turkey dispatched a number of its planes to Iraqi airspace to attack Iraqi Kurds on the pretext of attacking forces affiliated with the Turkish opposition Kurdish Workers Party.

The paper explains that Turkey carried out two aggressions against our territory, airspace, and citizens; once when it allowed the Zionist aircraft to pass through its airspace to conduct intelligence operations against us, and another when it launched an air aggression against Iraq and used internationally prohibited napalm bombs against our Kurdish people in the northern area of the homeland.

The paper expresses amazement that all these crimes did not move the world states and the UN Security Council which the U.S. administration and the U.S. bribes turned into tools for the implementation of U.S. policy, making crimes an acceptable status quo for the ostrich-like governments inside and outside the UN Security Council.

Concluding its editorial, BABIL says: Some U.S. or Western papers or magazines have published official acknowledgements, whose originators preferred to voice through unknown international political observers, U.S. plans to carry out a criminal action similar to the aggression against Iraq against other states in the Third World. Some of those concerned, however, about such acknowledgements said or did nothing. This perhaps explains the silence of those who preferred to remain silent about the unceasing crimes against Iraq by more than one party inside international organizations.

More on Levi's Explanation of U.S. Assurances

TA1510161091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi today briefed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on the 17 clauses in the U.S. document of assurances. Levi told the committee that if Baker brings an affirmative answer from the Palestinians, then Israel will not oppose the convening of the conference. Dov Gilhar reports from the Knesset:

Foreign Minister David Levi made clear today to members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Israel will not be the obstacle to the convening of the peace conference. If Secretary of State Baker brings an affirmative answer from the Palestinians, then the conference will take place, Levi said. The peace conference will almost certainly open in The Hague or Lausanne, and the bilateral talks will take place alternately in Jerusalem and the Arab capitals, the foreign minister said.

[Begin Levi recording] I believe that Israel not only announced its readiness to participate but initiated the move. Still, there are things that have to be sewn up with the United States. We have done that, and on Thursday we have to sew up the remaining issues and improve the wording. [end recording]

The foreign minister read out to the committee members the draft document of assurances the United States is to present Israel. We will read out some of the points.

Point 2: The conference will not have the power to decide, vote, or dictate.

Point 4: The United States does not support linkage between the various negotiations.

Point 5: No side will sit with anybody unacceptable to it.

Point 6: The United States does not plan to bring Israel to a dialogue with the PLO and negotiations with it.

Point 7: The Palestinians who participate in the negotiations will be inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza who are prepared to live in peace with Israel.

Point 8: The United States does not support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The foreign minister repeatedly avoided responding to the question of whether Israel would agree that al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi, who are suspected of contacts with the PLO, can participate in the Palestinian delegation.

[Begin Levi recording] We spoke about inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip who do not belong to the PLO. We will sit with them. We will wait another two days and see what the secretary of state has in his hand. I hope we will be able to make progress. [end recording]

When the conference convenes, Levi said, it will be an expression of the Israeli Government's success. If I contributed to its progress, that will be my reward, he added.

Shamir Staff on Levi's 'Defiance'

TA1510203291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Text] The foreign minister's address to the Knesset committee today is seen by the prime minister's circle as an act of defiance against Yitzhaq Shamir. It is yet another stage in the internal struggle between the two about who will head the contacts leading up to the peace conference and what tone will be given before and during the proceedings.

While most of the preparations for the political negotiations are being focused in Shamir's office, David Levi went ahead without coordinating his move with the prime minister and presented the main points of the U.S. document of assurances, which has so far not been made public, although its principles have been reported. He is in fact saying: We in the Foreign Ministry are active and we have our own view, which is not affected by gloomy influences. Shamir's office tonight voiced its criticism of the move. How will he bargain with Baker on Thursday over changes in the document when the foreign minister has already publicly praised its principles?

Yitzhaq Shamir continued his consultations today with Likud ministers and met with Ministers Arens and Levi to coordinate positions before the three meet with Baker. That will be the decisive meeting. Those who met the prime minister today say he is concerned and even tense, and that he believes the Americans might introduce last-minute changes in the understandings reached with Israel prior to the conference.

The big unknown is the list of Palestinians Baker will present to the political echelon on Thursday. The moment of truth will come, according to the latest evaluations, during the two-day conference or the four-day interval right after it. Then the Arabs will demand, perhaps even with U.S. support, an Israeli settlement freeze as a condition for entering real peace negotiations.

Shamir 'Gloomy and Hesitant' Before Baker Visit

TA1610065091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpts] Although Baker's eighth round of talks in Israel has been termed final and decisive, Jerusalem does not exclude the possibility that another round of talks will be needed before the conference can be convened. [passage omitted]

Israel has several reservations about the letter of assurances. How essential is it? The answer depends on where

you pose the question. Foreign Minister David Levi yesterday spoke in a very positive tone about the letter, stressing the points of agreement. The prime minister's bureau, on the other hand, points to the issues in dispute and stresses Israel's dissatisfaction.

The main problematic points deal with Israel's demand that a declaration be included that it will not be forced to return to the 1967 borders, and the U.S. status as a neutral mediator. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Shamir last night held a series of consultations in his bureau about the discussions with Baker. The participants described the prime minister's mood as gloomy and hesitant. Shamir fears that before direct negotiations open Israel will be required to make additional concessions, which will be termed confidence-building measures. Because of the prime minister's hesitation, Israel wants to get the maximum out of the letter of assurances.

Jerusalem stresses that Israel will not go to the conference if it does not know in advance who the Palestinian representatives are. Israel hopes to receive the list of Palestinian representatives this Thursday but is not certain that this will indeed happen.

As for the Soviet issue, reports reaching Jerusalem indicate that the USSR does not intend to renew relations with Israel during Pankin's visit. Political sources in Jerusalem expressed their disappointment with the Soviet stand, saying that the Soviets could have been expected to be more open. The reports also indicate that the United States is pressing the USSR to expedite the resumption of ties.

'No Chance' U.S. Can Be Honest Broker

TA1610085691 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 16 Oct 91 pp 1, 2

[Report by Dan Avidan and Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] On the eve of Baker's visit to Israel, the prime minister's associates say that Shamir is gloomy and very much concerned about the new U.S. directions. The associates say that Shamir believes that the peace conference will launch an unprecedented political and media campaign, headed by the U.S. Administration, against the positions of the Israeli Government.

Over the past few days, Shamir has held consultations with Likud ministers and political and defense officials in preparation for Baker's visit. Shamir's interlocutors reported that it is clear to him that if, in their discussions on Friday, Baker presents an acceptable list of Palestinian representatives, Israel will have no choice but to accept the invitation to the peace conference. A source close to the prime minister said last night, however, that it is clear to Shamir that "there is no chance that the United States will be an honest broker during the negotiations; the opposite is true."

In Shamir's consultations, it was agreed that in the discussions with the secretary of state Israel will insist that the United States provide an unequivocal commitment that the peace conference will automatically lead to direct negotiations. Israel will demand that the United States explicitly promise that it and the USSR will not allow the Arab states to raise any preconditions during the opening conference or during the recess that will follow it before direct negotiations open, and that if such demands are raised, Israel will not have to respond to them before the bilateral negotiations start.

Political sources in Jerusalem last night again expressed their concern that there has been no agreement on the venue of the bilateral negotiations. Israel is demanding that the negotiations take place "in the region," while the Arabs want to hold them directly after the opening conference and in the same place (still said to be The Hague or Lausanne, at the end of the month). Jerusalem is currently formulating a compromise whereby the direct negotiations will open at the site of the conference, but the second round of talks will be held in the region. [passage omitted]

Ehud Gol, the prime minister's media adviser, yesterday made it clear again that "it is inconceivable that Israel will agree to come to the conference unless the USSR upgrades ties to full diplomatic relations." Gol expressed his certainty that if that does not happen during Pankin's visit, the announcement on the upgrading of ties will be made several days later. [passage omitted]

'Additional Corrections' Sought in U.S. Letter

TA1610064291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, due to arrive in Israel this afternoon, will launch his eighth round of talks in Jerusalem in a meeting with Palestinian activists. Tomorrow morning he will meet Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Ministers Levi and Arens in the Prime Minister's Office. The Israeli ministerial team will try to introduce additional corrections to the U.S. letter of assurances to Israel and will discuss the issue of the Palestinian delegation with Baker. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports:

While the 17 assurances that Israel has already received from the United States have been favorably accepted here, some 10 or 12 issues remain open, Jerusalem says, among them some heavyweight matters that require further clarification.

For example, Israel demands that the letter of assurances state that the conference is being convened to lead to direct negotiations, the purpose of which are peace accords between Israel and its neighbors. The United States has rejected this phrasing, writing instead that, since the goal is the attainment of true peace, the United States believes that peace accords and diplomatic relations should be an aspiration.

Another matter is the PLO. Israel has demanded that the PLO have no role in the political process. The United States is suggesting that Israel will not be required to sit with anyone it does not want. Jerusalem feels that the United States is not willing to state explicitly that the PLO will have no part on the process.

The updated final draft letter of assurances includes no reference to Jerusalem. The United States did not accept the Israeli demand that it note that united Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital. At the same time, the United States gave up the declaration that it does not recognize the Israeli annexation of Jerusalem. Jerusalem knows that Washington promised the Arab side that the city is subject for negotiations although it must remain united. Also, the U.S. nonrecognition of the annexation of the Golan Heights has been stricken from the letter of assurances.

Other issues to be raised in the discussions at the Prime Minister's Office include procedures for the direct, bilateral negotiations; the venue of the bilateral talks; and naturally the Palestinian representation. Israel is aware that the United States is pulling a curtain, as someone said, that separates the PLO from Hanan 'Ashrawi, Faysal al-Husayni, and others among Baker's Palestinian interlocutors. Baker will be told that the United States knows full well that behind this curtain they are not only talking, but also kissing, and perhaps even more. Shamir, Levi, and Arens will insist that the delegation be comprised of residents of the territories and that the PLO have no foothold in it.

[The same newscast carries a report by Moti Amir on Baker's discussions in Jordan and Syria, adding that: "Secretary of State Baker will hand Shamir the list of the representatives from the territories, and it appears that Israel will not express its opposition to any of the candidates on the list."]

The consultations in the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry will continue this morning leading up to the decisive discussions with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

U.S. Urged To Keep Promises Made Since Feb

TA1610103391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0815 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Telephone interview with Economics and Planning Minister David Magen by Razi Barqay on the "It's All Talk" program—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Barqay] Today's newspapers carry reports by their political correspondents in Jerusalem saying that the prime minister has become withdrawn and is displeased and impatient. It this true?

[Magen] I have not yet read the newspapers, and I do not know the source of this information. I am not the prime minister's spokesman, but I can say that I met with the prime minister several times last week, including yesterday, and his spirits were very high. It is possible that in general the ministers, Knesset members, and policymakers—because we are living through a crucial time of change—have irregular moods. They are tense but responsible. If you want a scale, the feeling is very good, and spirits are very high.

[Barqay] Could it be that the prime minister's mood, which rubs off on you, is a result of his feeling that he is going to the process reluctantly?

[Magen] I do not know the source of this assessment. I can tell you about my feelings and my impression of the people around me in the Cabinet, including the prime minister. We are on alert, but in a good mood, and we are optimistic and hope to advance the peace process. [passage omitted]

[Barqay] What is still left on the agenda for Baker to iron out in next two days?

[Magen] This is much simpler than it sounds. All the Americans need to do is to keep the commitments we were given since February of this year, after the Gulf war. If these promises, which are not too many, are indeed kept, there is no reason for us not to accept the invitation willingly and go—excited and optimistic—to the peace conference. [passage omitted]

[Barqay] When you heard Binyamin Begin's announcement, what did you think?

[Magen] You know that Likud is a democratic movement: Everyone is entitled to run for every position. I have a deep appreciation for Knesset Member Begin. He has many good qualities and qualifications. I was a little surprised by the time he chose to make his announcement. I have heard various explanations for his choosing this particular time. The way I see it, today Yitzhaq Shamir is prime minister. He is my candidate for the next Knesset elections, and as long as he leads Israel the way it should be led, and firmly heads the movement with broad support, I believe that choosing a time to announce your candidacy for a job currently held by a healthy and capable person should follow some deep thought. [passage omitted]

Demonstrations Planned for Baker Visit

TA1510195691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Israel will be accompanied by various demonstrations. The council of settlements in Judaea and Samaria decided on a vocal struggle against Israel's participation in the peace conference, while Peace Now will organize a series of events calling on the prime minister not to miss the chance for peace.

A group of Soviet immigrants made haste to position themselves today across from the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem in a demonstration to protest President

Bush's policy. The group is called The Return to Zion and is headed by Yosef Mendelevitch. The demonstrators said that giving any political status to an Arab group in Eretz Yisra'el means confiscating from the Jewish people territory vital to its existence and harming Israel's security interests.

The police will ban Arabs from the territories from entering Jerusalem during the next three days when the foreign ministers of the United States and the USSR will be there. The security forces decided on that this evening. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that it was decided at the same time to bolster police deployment in the capital with hundreds of policemen. An additional force will also be kept on alert in Jerusalem.

'Matter of Time' Until Tehiya Quits Coalition

TA1410065691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Report by Leah Zinder]

[Text] For close to seven hours last night, the Tehiya Central Committee agonized over the decision whether to leave the government as soon as it received the invitation to the peace conference, as Ge'ula Kohen demanded, or to wait until negotiations actually begin, which is what party Chairman Yuval Ne'eman advised.

The issue was complicated by Ne'eman's insistence that if he did not receive the support of the central committee on the issue, he would resign. Ne'eman went so far as to invite Rehav'am Ze'evi, head of the rival Moledet party, to address the committee and endorse his view—something that angered many Tehiya members.

Finally, close to midnight, fearing a crisis that looked as if it would split the Tehiya right down the middle, a compromise was found. A committee of five hammered out a deal whereby as soon as the government receives the invitation to the peace conference, and before it makes its decision on whether to attend, Tehiya's Central Committee will reconvene to vote on whether to leave the government forthwith. Prof. Ne'eman promised that if at that time he detects any weakening in the government's position, from his point of view, he will support immediate departure from the government coalition.

It appears that it is only a matter of time before Tehiya leaves the coalition. Last night it also became evident just how serious is the challenge mounted by Deputy Minister Ge'ula Kohen to the leadership of Yuval Ne'eman.

Commentaries Consider Baker Talks, U.S. Ties

Bush Determined To Topple Shamir

TA1110164091 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Oct 91 p 12

[Commentary by Dalya Shehori: "Is Bush Aiming To Topple Shamir?"]

[Text] The severe protest by the United States following Iraq's complaint that four Israeli jets carried out a reconnaissance flight over western Iraq—while violating the airspace of Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan—constitutes real proof that the United States is out to get Israel, just as sources in Jerusalem had claimed. Not only is there apparently room for improvement in the intelligence data the United States has been supplying Israel with about Iraq, and not only does Saddam Husayn continue to pose a threat to Israel after the United States failed to bring about his ouster during the Gulf War, but now Washington is refusing to show understanding for an action that stemmed purely from security needs. This is something that has never characterized the friendly relations between the two countries in the past.

Nevertheless, we must not float the claim that "they are out to get us" in an overly casual or simplistic manner, even if it is true. The United States does not act on a whim, or out of blind hatred, or vindictiveness. A succession of events has brought relations to their present decline and to what is apparently Washington's decision to pressure Israel on different and various issues and to make its life very unpleasant.

Prime Minister Shamir's fickle game with the United States (he wants peace but will set up settlements till the edge of the horizon, he wants an international conference but will not agree to freeze settlements) is beginning to yield its rotten results not after, but already, before the convening of the international conference. Here we have a sharp protest, there we have the Congress' Appropriations Committee refusing to endorse a mere $200 million increase in military aid to Israel for 1993, and according to the latest reports, Bush is planning to send the UN supervisors to check on the state of Israel's nuclear weapons development, right after they finish their job in Iraq. The special relationship between the two countries is beginning to seem like a thing of the past.

Perhaps the United States only wants to show Israel, on the eve of the international conference and of Secretary of State Baker's trip here next week, just how much Israel's security and existence depend on America's goodwill and that people living in glass houses should not throw stones. Things could be worse than that, however. This could be an exacerbation in relations which reached its peak with President Bush's reluctance to give Shamir any more credit or to maintain any contact with him beyond necessary.

Let us take an extreme example, Iraq. Today no one has any doubt that the problem between Iraq and the United States is Saddam Husayn. Bush has himself clarified countless times that he has no quarrel with the Iraqi people. It is manifestly clear to everyone that the moment Saddam Husayn vacates his post the road toward a full normalization in U.S.-Iraqi relations will have been opened.

A similar situation may be forming with regard to us. Bush has nothing against the Israeli people, but he cannot work with Shamir. Admittedly, Shamir—or at least so it is to be hoped—does not yet arouse the same degree of revulsion in George Bush as does Saddam Husayn. At least we have seen no sign of this in Bush's statements until today. It is possible, however, that Bush deals with his enemies, of which there are not many: Saddam, Shamir, Castro—he has already taken care of Noriega—in a singular manner. He has not directly attacked Shamir, but has spoken out against the settlements. Bush considers East Jerusalem part of the occupied territories, has refused to give Israel the guarantees, and has been waiting like a hawk for any pretext to punish Israel. Perhaps he has decided to bring about Shamir's ouster? If the answer to this is positive, then it is clear that he would obviously not do anything outright, because he cannot allow himself—above all in an election year—to be accused at home of interfering in the internal affairs of a foreign country, especially Israel.

But interestingly enough, two days ago, on the Moqed television program, Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon spoke of a U.S. attempt to approach him and update him on developments. Sharon did not name the source, but it should be clear that no U.S. diplomat would have attempted to approach an Israeli cabinet minister and give him secret information such as the contents of the U.S. commitment to Syria, without having first received instructions or at least a green light from Washington.

It is hard to picture Sharon as Bush's dream leader. At the present time, however, Sharon may be seen as preferable to Shamir, because Sharon is a pragmatist and a go-getter with a strong motivation to clear his name after the Lebanon war. Perhaps Bush merely wants to stir trouble among the Israeli leadership, drive a U.S. wedge between the ministers, and widen the cracks in the Shamir government, in order to bring about his replacement, with the assumption that whoever follows him would better serve U.S. interests. Bush may have come to the conclusion that he has already reached the end of the road with Shamir. Seeing how Shamir patiently, with an almost fatherly forgiveness, engineered the seizure of the houses in the Arab village of Silwan by a handful of Jewish fanatics, under the protection of a law-breaking gang composed of a cabinet minister, a deputy minister, and three Knesset members, is enough to sympathize, or at the least, very least, understand the U.S. President without difficulty.

Beware of 'Vengeful, Vindictive' U.S.

TA1210113991 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Oct 91 p 15

[Commentary by Hemi Shalev: "The Moment the Gloves Come Off"]

[Excerpts] Hidden joy has been seen in recent weeks on the faces of those who oppose the current government, in view of what looked finally like a determined U.S. policy against settlements and in favor of ending Israel's presence in the territories. The vocal protest the United States presented this week against the Israeli Air Force flights over west Iraq should somewhat dampen the premature joy: It merely proves the Likud thesis that the administration is operating against Israel on all fronts and not only against this or that policy.

In reference to immediate issues, the opposition claims that the government's provocative settlement activity, in addition to its extremist declarations about "staying forever" in the territories and "building up to the horizon," are responsible for the current crisis in relations between the two countries. As a matter of principle, the left says that we can give up the territories and still maintain Israel's security by depending mainly on the might of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The U.S. protest, however, is directed not against the controversial territories but against the Israeli Air Force's deterrent capability, which is the heart of what is still left of the national consensus. The U.S. move, therefore, damages the very foundation of the opposition to the government's policy.

In the "new world order" President Bush is working out, central roles have been given to the United Nations and to security guarantees and regional arrangements under the inspiration and direction of the United States. An attack on those arrangements was the U.S. excuse for its complaint against Israel this week. The fact that Israeli public opinion has not yet wholeheartedly adopted the United Nations as the defender of Zion, and does not regard the United States as anything more than a broken reed on which to lean for Israel's physical defense, apparently plays no role in the administration's considerations. The Americans have always tended to be surprised by anybody who refuses to be overwhelmed by their various and transient views of world.

This impudent protest comes on the heels of the no less insolent claim by President Bush that during the Gulf war U.S. soldiers acted for the sake of Israel's security, while he conveniently forgot that Israel was prevented from acting against the Iraqi missiles at the request of the United States. Had Israel acted immediately after the first volley of missiles fell, it is reasonable to assume that the two-month nightmare would have been shortened. The restraint, which in itself was justified, was aimed at permitting the United States to achieve wide-ranging aims, with some of which Israel also identified. It was for that purpose that the government courageously decided to leave Israel's civilian population susceptible to an ongoing danger. The result did not, as President Bush perhaps erroneously believes, give Israelis the deep trust that the first priority of the United States was the defense of the State of Israel. Nor did it do away with the basic belief that we can do it better than others. The contrary is the case.

The protest over the overflights looks like a direct continuation of the policy of treating with kid gloves the

Arab components of the anti-Saddam "coalition." From our vantage point, it seems that the Americans are frightened by each peep coming out of Damascus or Riyadh. That is why they rushed to abrogate, or at least delay, the Presidential commitment to get the resolution equating Zionism and racism repealed. Instead of making it clear to the Arabs that Israel has apparently justified fears about Saddam Husayn's missiles, they join the chorus protesting the violation of the Arab countries' airspace.

The Israeli Government is joining the peace conference despite the fact that it will be held under the long shadow of a vengeful, vindictive, and threatening administration. According to the United States, futile actions to repeal the "Zionism is racism" resolution and the overflights by Israeli aircraft lessen the chance that the Arabs will come to the conference. In such a situation, it will be difficult for the government's opponents not to accept the thesis that the administration plans to thwart Israel on every point.

The idealistic talk about continued U.S. appreciation for Israel's being "the only democracy in the region" is no more than lip service. The current administration, like its predecessors, has never made any effort to justify its policies to the Israeli public. (The memorable Tutwiler even regularly refuses to brief the Israeli media during the secretary's visits here, despite the pleading of the U.S. Embassy.) The Americans show more sensitivity toward "public opinion" in the Saudi royal family or the ruling echelon in Syria than toward the Israeli public. There is no other explanation for the fact that they chose to join the Iraqi protest against the Israeli overflights and even took the trouble to leak it to all the media.

That proves, even to those among us who are blind and believe that each act of U.S. policy is the height of sophistication, that U.S. actions do contain an element of basic stupidity. It is true that Israel can take a large part of the blame for the current relations between the two countries, but that does not justify the U.S. war on all fronts, which only brings about the opposite result—strengthening Likud power.

In this atmosphere, the government's tendency "to poke a finger into Secretary Baker's eyes" each time he arrives in the region, by setting up some settlement, is even becoming appreciated. The aerial equivalent can be expressed by sending another four F-15's on a Middle East journey during the secretary's expected trip next week. If it can be worked out, it would be preferable for them to fly past his aircraft and flutter their wings in greeting. [passage omitted]

The prime minister plans to attend the peace conference, if only they let him, not because he believes that the negotiations will succeed, but because he believes that only in that way will it be possible to show everybody the extremism in the Arab position, and thereby to win over once again the support of the Jews and Congress, not to mention the Israeli voter.

The aim of U.S. policy, however, should warn us against such tactics. The alternative to negotiations conducted as part of the current process is not the United States abandoning the negotiations and allowing the sides to "spill blood." If the negotiations blow up, the United States will take off its gloves and appeal directly to the Security Council.

The Security Council has a single proven way to achieve its aims: sanctions. Those who believe that such a development "is not in the cards" are the same ones who could not imagine the President succeeding in preventing Israel from receiving the loan guarantees. If the current erosion in Israel's status among the U.S. public continues, it will not be hard for the administration to blame Israel for the failure of the negotiations. The continued decline will remove the last pockets of resistance to shifting the scene to the United Nations.

South African President Willem de Klerk will visit Israel in several weeks. Shamir should exchange a few words with him before deciding finally that we can maintain the government's current positions while keeping our international standing.

U.S. Set on Return to '67 Borders

TA1110184091 Tel Aviv YEDIOT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 11 Oct 91 pp 1,2

[Article by Shim'on Schiffer and Nahum Barne'a: "The Washington-Jerusalem Wars"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] As for the state of relations between the governments of the United States and Israel, the picture from Jerusalem this week was war. W-A-R. Israel is reaching the peace conference stripped of the most important asset it ever had: the alliance with the United States. Instead of the peace process drawing the two governments closer, it has greatly contributed to the rift between them. Yitzhaq Shamir this week spoke with longing of the days when Israel expected the United States to be an "honest broker" in the negotiations. Shamir no longer spoke of the "special relationship," a term which characterized the relations in the 1980's. Everyone, in Washington as well as Jerusalem, is speaking as if there were no longer any special relations--and it is doubtful if there is still even an honest broker.

Actually, there is a consensus in the present government that Bush is determined to implement what his predecessors in the White House dreamed of in theory: to push Israel back to the 1967 borders. The despondency spreads even further: President Bush has not allocated any place for Israel in his new world order for the Middle East. He does not wish its destruction but has no interest in Israel or its special situation in the Middle East. Bush, one of the ministers said, wants to deprive Israel of the ability to defend itself. Israel will receive enough arms to achieve a balance between it and its close neighbors. As for the threat from Iraq or Iran—for that Israel will have to depend on U.S. protection, as slow and limited as that is.

One of the expressions of this new "balance" is in the policy of arms supply: Israel today does not have any priority over Egypt and Saudi Arabia in the supply of sophisticated weapons.

Jerusalem was amazed when Ambassador Zalman Shoval's report of his last meeting last Thursday with Dennis Ross, Secretary of State Baker's adviser. Upon the instructions of Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Shoval requested that the discussions over the memorandum of understanding be held between Shamir and Baker in Jerusalem. "There is no point," Ross replied, "We are still the same United States with the same positions, whether in Washington or Jerusalem."

Ross gave Shoval the draft of the memorandum and said that he expected to receive Israel's comments within 48 hours. Ross was actually implying that Israel would be better advised to forgo the memorandum, because otherwise the Arabs would also receive a memorandum of understanding.

Shamir later asked: What, are we the same as the Arabs? He asked Shoval to clarify to the administration that Israel would not accept that equation. Israel insists on receiving a memorandum of understanding. The Americans were not impressed. Aaron Miller, Ross's assistant, said: They better stop procrastinating or we will issue the invitations to the conference without any memorandum.

The chill from Washington felt by the Israeli Government is partly a tactic designed to effect the softening of positions which is a sine qua non for the convening of the conference. Last March the administration decided to prove its impartiality to the Arabs. "In the end all the parties will be equally disappointed with us," Dennis Ross said. Shamir's close associates see the matter differently: They speak of the United States' complete adoption of the Arab position. King Husayn, Saddam's buddy, has his military aid renewed. Al-Asad wins compliments. Only Israel is constantly attacked and scolded.

Beyond directing moralizing lectures at the United States, government sources feel a strong sense of failure and yearn for an Israeli scapegoat. There are expressions of regret that Israel did not attack Iraq during the war. The sense of identification with Israel dissipated within days. Nobody showed gratitude for its restraint. There is also talk that Israel was wrong to agree to postpone the debate on the loan guarantees for six months and that Shamir was mistaken not to demand a written commitment from Bush during the war. Shamir's confidants believe that Shamir was the innocent victim of an ungrateful Bush.

There is talk of an intelligence failure on the strategic level: No one understood the severe repercussions of the new world order for Israel. People are saying that there was no serious discussion about Israel's position vis a vis the United States after the war. One of the ministers raised another problem: Unfortunately, just now in these trying times, both the prime minister and the foreign minister are people who are incapable of communicating with the United States—with the American people or with the Congress and the administration.

Shamir understands that a break with the United States would not only be a foreign policy disaster, it would also carry the seeds of a political disaster in the domestic arena. The Likud's constituency does not want such a rift. It is afraid of the price it would have to pay in terms of the economy and security. It is afraid of remaining isolated. The speeches at the Central Committee may be patriotic, but morale will sink abysmally. The voters will finally understand that the Israeli Government has found a friendly enemy, and it will not make them happy.

The loan guarantees and the settlements are mere examples on a path strewn with failures in the relations with the U.S. Administration. [passage omitted]

In Israel one reaches an accord only when everyone is exhausted. They cannot permit themselves to make a generous gesture, out of fear that their government will fall apart. Negotiations, as far as the Israelis are concerned, are a form of self-education: The prime minister is constantly aware of the fact that he may be accused of capitulation or of being weak if he accepts the U.S. proposal.

These remarks appear in Henry Kissinger's memoirs. The government he knew so well was Yitzhaq Rabin's. These statements read as though they were written about the Shamir government. A heavy shroud of internal politics hovers over the negotiations. The government itself cannot agree which of Shamir's actions are a result of what he wants or which stem from political constraints.

One of the ministers describes the massive infusion of money into the settlements as a bribe reluctantly given to the extreme elements in the government. In private meetings with right-wing ministers Shamir promised more and more settlements. The settlements were meant to serve as a kind of tranquilizer: They permitted the right wing to show some achievements and proved that Shamir was not serious about the peace process.

The assumption was that if Ari'el Sharon did not get the money, he would push Tehiya and Moledet out of the coalition and thus topple the government. If there is no government there could be no political process. This is also how things were explained overseas: The settlements are not an obstacle to the peace process, they are the very trick that is making it possible.

Shamir, however, has no control over Sharon. Shamir's confidants suspect that Sharon is not really interested in settlements. What he wants is to cause an explosion in relations with the United States and blow up the government at the same time. Two blatant examples of that took place this week: the settlement in Kfar Hashilo'ah [Silwan], which was carried out with the authorization of the Construction and Housing Ministry, and Sharon's provocative interview on "Moqed."

The fog surrounding the government's actions is so heavy that no one can know for sure what Shamir really wants. Knesset Member Gershon Shafat (Tehiya), who was one of the settlers in Kfar Hashilo'ah this week, attempted to analyze the Shamir government's attitude to this nocturnal settlement. "This government will not move," Shafat said. "Instead of Bush leading it, we are the ones leading."

MK Begin's Bid for Premiership Surprises Likud

TA1610054091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Binyamin Begin's decision to run for the premiership in the next elections should Yitzhaq Shamir stand down as a Likud Party leader has surprised many people, even in his own party. Qol Yisra'el's political affairs correspondent says the announcement on Israel Television last night caught Begin's own party colleagues off-guard, including some considered particularly close to him. Among the surprised was the Prime Minister's Office itself, according to the report.

The first of his peers to react was Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. He told our reporter that this is not the time for a change in the Likud Party leadership. This is a time for closing ranks to withstand the pressures we face, Netanyahu said.

Binyamin Begin, son of Israel's sixth prime minister, is a geologist by training. He became a member of the Knesset three years ago. Begin is known for his sharp opposition to Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon, who a short time ago said he would contest his party leadership for the next elections.

Gaza Hamas Leader Sentenced to Life Plus 15

TA1610114191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] We have just received this report from Gaza: Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, leader of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip, has been sentenced to life plus 15 years in prison. The verdict followed a conviction on counts of homicide, incitement, possession of firearms as part of the establishment of a hostile organization, and standing at the head of that organization.

[An earlier report by 'Ezra Yanuv on the same newscast provides details about the conviction of Shaykh Yasin: "The Gaza Strip Military Court presided over by Colonel Eli Zicherman today convicted Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, 56, leader of the Gaza Strip branch of Hamas. The conviction came in the wake of a plea bargain between the seven defense attorneys and the military prosecution represented by attorney Avi Levi.

["The defendant pleaded guilty on all counts, after the sides reduced the charges to exclude serious counts, such as the murder of local residents suspected of collaboration with the authorities, as well as Shaykh's Yasin's complicity in and following the murder of soldier Avi Sasportas."]

IDF Spokesman: No Evidence Soldier Missing

TA1510184791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] In the wake of reports about the alleged kidnapping of an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier, the IDF spokesman reports that following a thorough investigation by the IDF, no evidence was found that a soldier with a name like the one reported is missing.

Reports on Settlement Moves Throughout Country

Soldiers Said Holding Silwan House

TA1610112891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers are currently holding Meyuhas House in Silwan. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that this was revealed yesterday when five Labor Knesset members [MK] visited the site. According to them, it has become apparent that the house in Silwan is currently being held by 12 soldiers belonging to the yeshiva special arrangement units [yeshiva students whose studies are considered part of a four-year army service]. The soldiers are holding the place in rotation.

In a letter to the defense minister, MK Hagay Merom writes that the whole matter is grave in itself and casts doubts on the defense minister's statement that he does not favor the Silwan settlement. Merom is asking the defense minister to order the soldiers to leave the house and to investigate who ordered or approved their stay there.

Merom claims that currently none of the original squatters is in Meyuhas House and that the burden of holding the place has now been placed on the soldiers alone.

Sharon Explains Policy on Silwan

TA1310121891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 13 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon this morning visited the Jews who have moved into Silwan outside Jerusalem's Old City. Sharon told them the government's policy is to increase Jewish settlement in the unified Jerusalem. He said any amount invested for this purpose is important and worthwhile. He said the government will continue to buy property belonging to Jews. The housing minister told the Jews living there, including Knesset Member Elyaqim Ha'etzni of Tehiya, that the Jewish presence contributes to the security of Jews in Jerusalem because Silwan was one of the most disruptive neighborhoods in the city. Ya'aqov Rosenberg was in Silwan with Sharon:

[passage omitted] Sharon was not just expressing solidarity with the new settlement. He said ministry funds helped buy this complex, as well as other property lived in by Jews before 1948. This, he said, is government policy.

[Begin Sharon recording] One of our goals is to resettle by Jews buildings that belonged to Jews in the past. Of course, sometimes this is a complicated thing because it might happen that people were living in those buildings, so you have to first of all, before that should be done, see if they would like to leave those apartments. Then, of course, you have to compensate them. Everything in accordance with the law. [end recording]

Ari'el Sharon says his ministry will help buy other Jewish buildings, either in Jerusalem or in the territories, which were lived in by Jews before 1948. Asked what kind of message the current controversy sends to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who will be arriving in Israel on Wednesday, Sharon said Israel is merely expressing the rights of Jews to settle in Jerusalem. No message intended.

4,000 Units Planned in East Jerusalem

TA1012031911 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Excerpts] The Construction and Housing Ministry and the heads of 'Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva have drawn up a plan for the establishment of more than 4,000 housing units in East Jerusalem. Documents obtained by our correspondent indicate that according to the building plan entitled "The Jerusalem Gates Plan," apartments in the eastern part of the city will be built in the next few years in 26 different centers. At the same time, 'Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva continues to purchase dozens of private apartments in the Muslim Quarter of East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Nitzan Hen reports:

[Begin recording] A map showing 26 new settlement points in East Jerusalem has been circulating for the past few weeks among the various planning offices in the Jerusalem municipality. The plan is entitled "The Jerusalem Gates Plan," and it is signed by the Construction and Housing Ministry and 'Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva. Involved are four major land stretches: 1,500 housing units are planned for Mitham Hatefer, along Route 1, on areas which had previously been earmarked for public institutions and hotels; 950 units are planned for Giv'at Hazeytim on the eastern slopes of al-Shaykh Jarrah and the Wadi al-Jawz service stations area; 800 units for 'Emeq Yehoshafat, the slopes of Mount Scopus which had earlier been slated for the Supreme Court building; and 1,200 housing units for Gey Hizayon, stretching from the eastern slope of the Hebrew University Campus down to Ma'ale Adumim—a total of approximately 4,000 housing units.

Most of the land is owned by the Israel Lands Administration, and some plots belong to the Jewish National Fund and the 'Ateret Kohanim Society. [passage omitted]

These are areas that had been expropriated in 1967 in accordance with the absentee property law and had been handed over to a special custodian—a branch in the Israel Lands Administration, which is subordinated to the Construction and Housing Ministry.

The plan calls for the establishment of a Jewish neighborhood in the olive grove in the Wadi al-Jawz area, for example. That will require the eviction of most of the service stations in the area and payment of compensation to their owners. [passage omitted]

The custodian hands a large part of the assets in East Jerusalem over to 'Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva as trustee. Dozens of houses which had previously belonged to Jews or which were bought from Arabs and paid for in full have over the past 12 months been shifted to Jewish hands quietly, carefully, and without making headlines. [passage omitted]

The fourth Jewish family has moved into Rotenberg House, not far from Minister Sharon's home [in the Muslim Quarter] earlier this week. The building is now home to only two Arab families. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The Construction and Housing Ministry has commented on the above, saying that the construction plan was devised by the 'Ateret Kohanim Society alone, without the Construction and Housing Ministry. The ministry spokesman emphasized that the only ties his ministry has with 'Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva have to do with populating activities.

Site Beyond Jerusalem Green Line

TA1510144791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Oct 91 p A5

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[Excerpt] The Construction and Housing Ministry and the Jerusalem Municipality have begun to prepare the ground for the largest mobile home site in the city in Giv'at Hamatos, west of the Gilo neighborhood, on land that was on the other side of the Green Line before the Six-Day War. Some 600 mobile homes intended for immigrants, young couples, and the homeless will be located on the site. [passage omitted]

Inauguration of Golan Site Rejected

TA1410070491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] Senior cabinet elements have so far rejected the request of Golan Heights residents to hold a formal inauguration ceremony for the settlement of Qela'. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht has learned that the request

was rejected because it was feared that the United States would regard such a move as provocation.

Preparations are under way in Qela' for the absorption of a nucleus of 27 families of immigrants from the Soviet Union, who are connected with Betar's settlement movement.

Magen Sees Quick Prisoner Exchange Unlikely

TA1510172791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] Minister David Magen has said that no deal to exchange terrorists for POW's is expected soon because the Arabs do not want such a deal. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that Minister Magen met today with several members of families of terror victims and, according to them, he declared that Israel will not repeat the mistake of releasing terrorists as it did in the Jibril deal. He advised the families to take public and legal action to foil any such deal.

Minister Magen's bureau refused to confirm or deny this report, saying that the meeting was closed, held with members of the families, and was not meant to be publicized.

Officials Comment Upon Return From PRC

TA1510104591 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 15 Oct 91 p 1

[Report by Tzvi Gilat]

[Excerpt] "We estimate that the PRC plans to expand its trade ties with Israel and to give the tightening ties more publicity." This observation was made yesterday to HADASHOT by Moshe Yegar, Foreign Ministry deputy director general for Asia, Africa, and Oceania, who has just returned from China together with David Afeq, head of the Foreign Ministry's Political Research Center.

In the wake of last April's political talks with a Chinese delegation headed by the director of the PRC Foreign Ministry's Middle East desk, the Chinese announced that the Israeli scientific delegation in China would be granted diplomatic status. An Israel Academy of Sciences representation, which includes professional diplomats, is staying in China, while a Chinese Tourism Ministry delegation, also including diplomats, is in Israel. Last week the Chinese surprised their guests by announcing their decision to publicize the meetings between the two sides—a sign of approaching normalization of relations.

In the coming days, a Middle East expert and Foreign Trade Ministry personnel from the PRC are expected in Israel. [passage omitted]

Military Delegation Departs for Talks in Cairo

TA1510150291 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Oct 91 p A8

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] An Israeli military delegation headed by Brigadier General Hayim Yifrah, commander of the units for liaison with foreign forces, left for Cairo for talks with members of an Egyptian military delegation. Brigadier General Fredi Zakh, deputy coordinator of government activities in the territories, and other officers are in the delegation.

Among the issues to be discussed with the Egyptians are border crossings, infiltrations, and family reunions. Israel will also raise the issue of Egypt's stopping the crossing of Palestinian refugees from the Canada camp in Rafah to Tall al-Sultan in the Gaza Strip. The Egyptian authorities recently stopped the crossings from Egyptian Rafah to Tall al-Sultan because they no longer provide the refugees with funds, despite the accords signed between the two countries according to which Egypt was supposed to give each family $12,000 to build a home in Tall al-Sultan.

Hungarian Minister Boross Arrives on Visit

TA1410112691 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 14 Oct 91 p 2

[Text] Cooperation between the Israeli and the Hungarian police forces on issues such as the war on drugs, currency forgery, and antiterror measures will be in the focus of the discussions that Peter Boross, Hungarian deputy prime minister, will hold in Israel. Boross arrived in Israel last night for a two-day visit.

Boross, who is also the Hungarian Minister of the Interior and Police, was received at Ben-Gurion Airport by Police Minister Roni Milo.

The minister's entourage includes the Hungarian police chief, who was received by the commander of the Israel Police, Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner. Minister Boross will hold a meeting with Prime Minister Shamir, hold a working session with Interior Minister Arye Der'i, visit the Yad Vashem Museum and various police facilities, and hold a working discussion with Commander Hayim Albaldes, commander of the Jerusalem District Police.

Anticrime Memorandum Signed

TA1410201291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] Police Minister Roni Milo and Peter Boross, the Hungarian deputy prime minister and interior minister, today signed in Jerusalem a memorandum of understanding between the two countries. The two countries will cooperate in fighting international terrorism and crime in general. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that they will cooperate in fighting drugs, international acts of fraud, white collar

crimes, and organized crime. The minister visited the Yad Vashem War Memorial and tomorrow will tour police units, including the special antiterrorist unit.

Herzog Leaves on 1-Week State Visit to CSFR

TA1310195191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Oct 91

[Text] President Hayim Herzog left tonight on a state visit to Czechoslovakia. The farewell ceremony for the president and Mrs. Herzog this afternoon in the Rose Garden in Jerusalem was attended by the Knesset chairman, the prime minister, ministers, the attorney general, and senior Army officers.

During his one-week visit, the president will hold political talks and participate in an inauguration ceremony for a memorial site at the Nazi concentration camp of Theresienstadt.

This, the first state visit by an Israeli president to Czechoslovakia, was arranged in the wake of President Vaclav Havel's visit to Israel about six months ago.

King Husayn Addresses National Congress

JN1210181791 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1807 GMT 12 Oct 91

["Full recording" of King Husayn's address to the Jordanian general national congress in the Palace of Culture at al-Husayn Youth City in Amman on 12 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers and sisters, members of the Jordanian national congress, dear citizens:

I greet you warmly and through you all I greet our sons wherever they are. I address you all as Jordanian citizens, irrespective of your roots and affiliations. I address you as members of one family sharing the same destiny and marching along the same path.

You are probably wondering why we are meeting in this manner at this particular time. Simply and honestly, it is my duty as a leader during these decisive circumstances—through which the homeland and kinfolk are passing—to engage you in a frank and open discussion to ascertain current realities and their dimensions, to predict possible consequences, and to seek a consensus among us. This would unite us in a common, meaningful, and earnest march, for what is at stake is the destiny of this people and this country, and the future of our nation.

Modern Jordan was founded to protect this land and its people. Throughout the years, the region has witnessed certain developments that placed Jordan on the longest borders and in a sacred position, making it the vanguard of its Arab nation. Recently, events have accelerated in a manner that has overtaken our national program which was based on formulating a National Charter, which has been accomplished. The next phase was to translate the principles of this National Charter into reality and in the form of political pluralism, which is not excessive in term of number and political parties, whose pan-Arab and universal outlook emanate from the Jordanian homeland and its message, functioning in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution and the principles of the National Charter. Pursuant to that, general parliamentary elections based on political pluralism were to be held.

Were it not for those events which took us by surprise, we would have carried out our national agenda as scheduled, and there would have been no need to hold this meeting to brief, through you, our people on an issue that will constitute, as I expect, a watershed between uncertainty and clarity of vision, between evading responsibility and shouldering it, and between burying one's head in the sand and standing up to reality by confronting challenges with courage, determination, and faith.

Thus, I believe it is my duty to speak to you at this delicate position and at a decisive turning point upon which our entire existence, direction of our course, and overall regional and international relations depend.

That turning point is the Middle East peace conference and the fruits it might yield should it succeed, in the form of a new reality that would put an end to the era of fragmentation, drift, and waste of time, and usher in a new era of hope, relaxation, and construction. This is the true meaning of a just and lasting peace for which we have been striving and will continue to strive. I do not think you are surprised that I should speak about peace, that we should be working in earnest to attain it or preach its centrality within our hopes and its importance for us to continue our march as a state and people.

Peace is essential to us in leading a normal life, which is the legitimate right of every individual, in order to dream, work, and plan for himself and his family, to raise his standard of living free from fear, worry, and confusion. It is also the legitimate right of each nation in order to develop and progress, secure against threat and the exhaustion of the country's capabilities and resources.

I am confident that it is no surprise to you that I should be talking about all of this. We have been discussing the peace issue for a long time. We have made it a symbol for a better life for future generations. In light of the developments of the Palestinian problem with all its attendant pain, complications, and the sacrifices made by this steadfast homeland, peace has become a national objective that we have striven to attain, and a political strategic foundation upon which to proceed.

On this basis, we have played a central role at both the Arab and world levels. For over a quarter of a century, we were among the first to initiate efforts or contribute to them to promote a solution to the Palestinian problem and a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Consequently, we have since 1967 responded positively to every peace initiative that was based on international legitimacy. We welcomed President Bush's speech to the U.S. Congress on 6 March in which he declared his determination to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and to resolve the Palestinian problem on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace, as well as the restoration of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people and assuring security for all countries of the region.

In fact, in every political pronouncement or statement we made or helped couch on the Arab and international levels, we have consistently highlighted a fair and comprehensive peace and stressed the need to see to the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the foundation for any just and comprehensive settlement. Even while we and the world were preoccupied with the Gulf crisis, our attention never strayed from the cause of peace. We expressed this through our insistence that the international community address Israel's occupation of Arab land with the same

standards it did Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. We earnestly called for a linkage between the two disputes so that both are resolved in accordance with international legitimacy.

As a result of many considerations and profound international changes, the time has come when we see a serious attempt being exerted to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and realize the aspired-for peace through a conference, which will convene for this specific purpose. What is our position? And what are we to do?

One might ask: Why should we go to the peace conference when the Israeli leadership constantly insists that it will not give up one inch of the occupied territories? The answer to that question is this: Our cause is not just between Jordan and Israel, but also between the world and Israel. It is between the supremacy of international law to entrench world peace on the one hand, and to rebel against it on the other.

The entire world rejects what the Israeli leadership is saying because it violates international legitimacy. Indeed, a growing segment of the Israeli people is adopting the global viewpoint. Previously, the Israeli leadership has followed such a policy regarding its settlements in Sinai, where it maintained that it would not remove them. However, the Israeli Government changed its position as a result of negotiations and international pressure to make peace with Egypt, which had adhered to international legitimacy.

Apart from all this, let us assume that Israel adopts a rigid stand in the negotiations with the intention of maintaining the status quo from which it alone would benefit. This will make things clear to the entire world, who will then view Israel as an enemy of peace and stability in the region, contrary to what it claims, because the basis of the solution is international legitimacy and the land-for-peace formula, which is a clear formula. In this case, Israel's loss would be greater than ours; in fact, our loss as a result of participating in the negotiations will be less than if we were not to participate at all.

Since a just peace would touch every aspect of our lives, it necessitates our serious response to every serious attempt to realize it. Therefore, making efforts and trying to achieve peace is a national duty, and escaping from it would be to let down our nation, irrespective of any cosmetic justifications.

Also one might say: What do we have to do with the peace conference? Jordan only has a small piece of land which is occupied.

The answer to this is: Since when can we separate Jordan's future from the reality and future of the Palestinian issue? [applause] Since when is politics conducted without any regard for geographic proximity and demographic relations? Has our political history and social and economic reality not taken shape as a consequence of the Palestinian case and its developments? Has Jordan not received three major waves of Palestinian immigrants thus far? Has that not resulted in an imbalance in the equation of resources and population in Jordan, resulting in the economic and social problems we are experiencing now?

And yet, Jordanians can take pride in the fact that had not their state been set up on this land, nothing would have been left to discuss. Had it not been for their sacrifices and struggle throughout the stages of the Palestinian issue, there would not have been a West Bank which we are working to retrieve for its population according to UN Security Council resolutions. [applause] Had it not been for the unity of the two banks that included Arab Jerusalem, which we saved in 1948, there would not have been the issue of Jerusalem, especially given that all the Arab states then adopted the world's opinion regarding the internationalization of the holy city, with the exception of Pakistan and Britain, the latter of which was bound with Jordan by a treaty.

Jordanians of all origins can be justly proud of the fact that together they have borne the consequences of every setback and tragedy that has befallen Palestine and its people—both the steadfast and the expatriates.

The answer also is: The conference is about peace—which is to say that the recovery of territory will be just one rather than all of its consequences. For there is also the question of regional security and peace to be addressed. And there are the problems of the environment, water, economic development, and other matters to be discussed—issues of the sort that require cooperation and multilateral agreements.

Jordan, situated as it is in the heart of the eastern Mediterranean, cannot possibly insulate itself from a solution to all these problems and not be part of the efforts being made to solve them; nor can it remain uninvolved in the potential arrangements since they concern it and have a direct bearing on its existence, future, and regional role. I do not think that anyone of you would accept it if we were to be so naive as to isolate ourselves and forget and thus melt, especially at this juncture in world history, when the pace of interdependence among its peoples and nations is quickening. Thus, the question concerns us, and very much so—both in terms of the present and future since it affects our presence and survival. Without it, we will—God forbid—be open to risks, the scale and extent of which only God knows.

God says in His holy book: "For the covenants of security and safeguard enjoyed by the Quraysh, their covenants covering journeys by winter and summer, let them adore the Lord of this house, who provides them with food against hunger, and with security against fear of danger."

An insightful, profound reading of this divine verse reveals that God Almighty has defined for any caretaker his responsibilities toward his followers at all times and places in two essential ways: providing them with food

against hunger, and securing them against fear. Certainly, our modern understanding of preventing hunger cannot mean opening houses for the poor or distributing free meals. Rather, it means the creation of job opportunities for all job-seekers through utilizing the state's resources, educating and training its citizens, and promoting production in all sectors of the economy. As for securing people against fear, it also has many meanings, starting with the respect of human rights, dignity, and freedom, ensuring material and social security for the individual, and protecting the state's stability and security. This is the leadership's primary responsibility.

I tell you, honestly and truthfully, that this responsibility is no longer easy under the current circumstances; in fact, it has become a great challenge that is clear to all those who are privy to Jordan's difficult financial, economic, and social conditions. Jordan is practically under siege; Jordan has limited resources; Jordan has one of the highest population growth rates; in short, Jordan has both unemployment and hunger.

However, Jordan is a country of pride and dignity [applause]; its people have the virtues of patience, perseverance, and loyalty. Our participation in the peace conference is not, therefore, aimed at achieving peace as an abstract concept or at any price. We will participate out of a sense of major duty to ensure security and prosperity for our people, armed with our determination to adhere to international legitimacy; our commitment to our rights and our loyalty to our Jerusalem; and our commitment to stand beside the Palestinian people, help them put an end to their tragedy by [applause] regaining their sovereignty on their soil, and support them to obtain their legitimate rights so that they, like other nations, can live secure in their homeland and seek prosperity. [applause]

The peace resulting from negotiations is permanent because it is the outcome of mutual understanding and accommodation of the stands of the parties to the conflict without any sacrifice of rights or deviation from international legitimacy. Permanent peace must be balanced. It must not be based on the material balance of power or weakness, but on justice, right, and the joint benefit of the two sides. In this way, the coming generations can enjoy and protect it.

Therefore, the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory of others by war, stipulated by the UN Charter, cannot be forfeited or ignored. This is the essence of Security Council Resolution 242 which applies to Arab Jerusalem as well as the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Syrian Golan Heights. This resolution means that the Israeli forces will withdraw fully from the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, exactly as understood in the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement [applause] when Israel withdrew from Sinai which it occupied as a result of the same war. It also means that the settlements are illegitimate and that proceeding with the settlement policy is nothing but an attempt to render the equation of land for peace void of its content. Therefore, this policy is an obstacle to the peace process which must be removed.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today, we stand face to face with the challenge of just peace. It is a great challenge because it places us at a crossroads where illusions battle with truth; fantasy with reality; complacency with the urge to act; the tendency to outbid, slander, and accuse with the spirit of responsibility; discouragement with encouragement; selfishness with generosity; wishful thinking with serious thought; and comfort in the familiar with exploring new and promising horizons.

Nevertheless, just as light chases darkness, I am confident that our people, and each and every one of you, are capable of defeating all elements of negativism, illusion, and frustration. This can be done through the following:

First: A sharper sense of responsibility at all levels. This speech I am delivering to you now is an expression of this responsibility toward each and every one of you and toward our people of all groups and ages wherever they may be, in the city, village, or camp.

It is my responsibility toward our country, its strength, existence, and future, and my responsibility toward providing security and prosperity to its sons. Just and comprehensive peace is the key to changing our conditions toward the better future we all seek.

Undoubtedly, you enjoy this sense of responsibility irrespective of your positions and origins because it is linked to your responsibility toward yourselves, your children and families, your fellow citizens, and our Palestinian kinfolk. It is also linked to your concern to preserve a safe and prosperous homeland. I do not believe that our sense of national and pan-Arab responsibility has ever been tested as it is now, especially with regard to supporting the Jordanian negotiating delegation and standing behind it with all our capabilities.

I hereby announce that I personally, bound by the sense of duty incumbent upon me toward all of you, will employ all my energy to support our delegation in its noble national task. I am confident that our people, who have been frequently tested in their ability to shoulder national and pan-Arab responsibility and have proved their worthiness and loyalty, will also pass this test by supporting our negotiating delegation with pride and dignity.

Second: Courage. Peace demands no less courage than war. It is the courage to meet the adversary, his attitudes and arguments, the courage to face hardships, the courage to bury senseless illusions, the courage to surmount obstacles, the courage to engage in a dialogue to tear down the walls of fear and suspicion. It is the courage to face reality. I do not doubt that our Jordanian people who are familiar with hardships and who have been raised with moral and physical courage, armed with righteousness and faith, are well qualified and confident

in their ability, after relying on God, to meet the challenge of peace and to realize it so that all the children of Abraham, the first to embrace Islam, peace be upon him, will reap its fruits.

Third: Discipline and organization. The challenge we are facing is enormous, decisive, and complicated. Dealing with it may last for many years to come. Thus, we should not expect speedy results and an imminent ready-made solution. The process of peace will be difficult and tedious. This makes it incumbent upon us to pool all of our national energies, provide the right atmospheres, and both mobilize and direct our citizens' capabilities toward the arena of dealing with this major challenge in a manner that ensures our success.

Good organization requires that we select and prepare the working teams in charge of conducting negotiations so that the aspired goal of these negotiations will be realized by attaining a just peace. Besides providing the proper atmospheres, discipline means close, cohesive ranks as well as the vigilance of all and their support for the government's effort in the major national task it will undertake.

Foremost among the duties in this respect is the need for an efficient media characterized by reason, awareness, and knowledge, as opposed to emotions and sensationalism which could only lead to illusions and further deterioration. There is no need for media that repeat verbatim statements by the enemies of peace, which are designed to provoke, discredit, and instill despair in the viability of the peace efforts. What is required are media that uphold the interests of the people and state, not media interested in exploiting the feelings of people and harming and ruining their interests.

Fourth: Nationalism: By this, I mean genuine nationalism which begins with the full appreciation of the conditions of the state, its assets, and liabilities, and not fantasies or wishful thinking that cannot be exchanged anywhere. I also mean the initiation of ideas and decisions based on the interests of the country, and not to pursue the realization of selfish or parochial interests. By nationalism, I also mean the ability to ascertain what is possible so that we achieve it and not miss it. Above all, can anyone pretend that he is more of a nationalist than those who cling to their land and its soil as is the case with our brethren, the Palestinians, in their occupied homeland? [applause] True nationalism does not give the right to some to deny it to others, because no one can claim to hold a monopoly over it. Nationalism does not mean that we can mislead, discredit, or unjustly undermine the security institutions which must remain apolitical to enable them to be the country's shield in facing any threat to the state. True nationalism should not exploit democracy so as to spread confusion or further division. [applause] True nationalism aims at safeguarding the country, its people, its soil, and its institutions.

Fifth: Awareness and Knowledge: These constitute the most important pillars of victory in the battle for peace. I have no doubt that we, who have experienced the Palestine question in all its dimensions, must be fully aware of all its developments and ramifications. We must also be aware of the direct and indirect effects of both the regional and global balance of powers, as well as the impact of the dramatic changes which the Palestinian question has experienced while we have been preparing for the peace conference.

Nevertheless, it would be useful to review the most prominent facts, events, and developments whose effects and implications have taken us to the crossroads at which we stand today. It would also be useful to review a number of important aspects on the basis of which the peace conference will be convened.

Concerning the facts, events, and developments:

First, let me remind you of a fact I previously made reference to; namely, that no observer closely scrutinizing the graph of the Palestine question can fail to notice its steady decline. Since the thirties, and despite the fairness of the Palestinian cause, what could have been achieved out of any peace opportunity has always proved to be less than that offered by the preceding one. If there is any significance to this, it can only mean that our grasp, as Arabs and Palestinians, of the regional and international situation at every peace opportunity had always fallen short of what was required. Indeed, we have failed to deal with the events within the framework of what is possible and reasonable, which resulted in the loss of one opportunity after another. This led to a situation wherein 65 percent of the West Bank territories have been confiscated by Israel, and wherein the plight of the Palestinian people today is one best described as dispersion and uncertainty in the diaspora, and increased suffering and hardship in the occupied territories.

Second, the present Israeli leadership feels itself to be the only beneficiary from the continuation of the status quo; that is, the state of no-war no-peace, a situation Israel is exploiting to bring about changes on the ground.

There are three facts that encourage Israel to cling to this status quo, facts with which we are familiar and about which we worry on a daily basis:

1. The continuous flow of Soviet Jews by the tens of thousands.
2. The establishment of new settlements.
3. Raising funds from outside sources in order to absorb these immigrants.

Such facts, as plainly evident, are of a dynamic nature and not simply transient. Only a just peace based on international legitimacy can put an end to this ever growing evil, which is leading to the seizure of territories and to the dispersion of the Palestinians by uprooting and expelling them.

Third, the collapse of communism and its alliance and the consequent breakdown of the world balance of power led to the end of the cold war and the world order, which was essentially based on bipolarity. The world headed toward peace, nuclear disarmament, reduction of armies, reduction or elimination of some weapons of mass destruction, the settlement of all regional conflicts, and the protection of the world environment.

Regarding the effect of this state of affairs on the Middle East, the Soviet Union has shifted from the position of a rival to that of a partner of the United States in the proposed peace process. This shift was effected by a shared concept of the two countries of a new world order succeeding the cold war era. The Soviet Union has also ceased to be a source of threat to Western, and particularly U.S., interests in the region—a fact that has deprived Israel of its most significant asset, namely, being the United States' strategic ally in confronting the Soviet Union.

Fourth, the collapse of the Arab order and the disequilibrium in the Middle East balances of power as a result of the Gulf crisis. This led to new alliances and a clear drift toward regionalism, something which left a direct impact on the way the Arabs dealt with the Palestine question as well as on the security considerations of each Arab country.

Fifth, Jordanians and Palestinians are besieged and they are the parties directly harmed by the continuation of the status quo of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Sixth, the increased U.S. interest in post-Gulf war stability in the Middle East—a stability based on the settlement of conflicts and the treatment of their root causes, and not one merely based on the containment and management of crises as has been the case until quite recently. This development, within the context of establishing and consolidating stability, emanated from two factors:

1. The end of the cold war era and the beginning of a new phase in which all indications show that competition will essentially be economic and scientific but not military as was the case in the preceding era.

2. The consequences of the Gulf war which emphasized the need to provide stability not only in the oil states but in the neighboring ones, too. The roots of conflicts in the neighboring countries are diverse. Some are political, some are economic, and others are racial and sectarian. In any event, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue are in the forefront.

All these events and developments, and the regional and international interactions they have entailed, subsequently brought about one essential outcome, namely the renewal of efforts in an attempt to arrive at a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Hence came the U.S.-Soviet initiative to convene a Middle East peace conference. Thus, the Arabs and the rest of the world meet in their mutual desire and interest to find a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Before discussing this convergence, its elements, and its potential, let me quickly outline to you the development of the Arab stance vis-a-vis peace with Israel in terms of the sequence of events that commenced in November 1967, when two Arab states of those that had engaged in war with Israel accepted UN Security Council Resolution 242, which calls for peace and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. The two states were Jordan and Egypt.

Following the October 1973 war, UN Security Council Resolution 338 was issued. One of the clauses of this resolution called for the implementation of Resolution 242. Syria accepted it, thereby joining Jordan and Egypt. In 1979, Egypt concluded a peace treaty with Israel. At the Fes summit conference in 1982, the Arab leaders, including the PLO, unanimously agreed to accept a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and to resolve the Palestinian issue. In 1988, the 19th session of the Palestine National Council declared a Palestinian peace initiative based on the existence of two states on the territory of Palestine—one Israeli and one Palestinian. The PLO accepted UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

At this juncture, I would like to emphasize an important issue related to Resolution 242. Consultations preceding the adoption of this resolution were based on the principle of land for peace. Jordan participated in these consultations with the superpowers, particularly the United States, and in formulating the resolution accordingly. Later, the issue of overlapping in the armistice lines was raised. Among the significant features of this issue was the fact that these lines came to divide some villages, and even some houses. We accepted the concept of effecting minor changes on a reciprocal basis to reach a just solution to this problem.

The Arab states have unanimously called for peace and have accepted the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue by peaceful means. The evolution of this position was gradual, beginning with the acceptance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967 by both Jordan and Egypt, and ending with the 1988 Palestinian peace initiative, which gained Arab and international support, and was followed by an official dialogue between the United States and the PLO in Tunis.

During this period, initiatives and international efforts for peace continued. Indeed, we are dealing nowadays with another peace initiative. We may ask, what is new now? What is new now is that certain realities have emerged:

First, the seriousness of the present U.S. Administration in its efforts to reach a peaceful settlement. This was manifested in President Bush's address to Congress on 6 March; in the dictates of the interests of the United States and the industrialized countries in the Middle

East; in the seven visits made by Secretary of State James Baker to the countries in the area within the last six months; in the contents of Mr. Baker's talks with the parties concerned and the letters of assurances received from him; and in the recent attitude taken by the U.S. President regarding the loan guarantees requested by Israel for the purpose of absorbing Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union.

Second, the transformation of the relationship between the Soviet Union and the United States from one of antagonistic competition where each was bent on foiling the other's peace endeavors, into one of cooperation and partnership to bring about peace.

These two facts have contributed to a convergence of views between the Arab side and the influential international parties for the resumption of a peace endeavor that is more serious than any other previous ones.

You are undoubtedly aware of the elements that constitute the framework for the peace conference, since the media have reported on the outcome of discussions between the U.S. secretary of state and every party he visited in the region.

Nevertheless, I deem it useful to survey a number of important elements that compose the general framework of the peace conference.

First, peace negotiations will take place on two tracks. The first is Palestinian-Israeli. The second is Arab-Israeli, through bilateral committees formed for this purpose. There will be a Syrian-Israeli committee, a Lebanese-Israeli committee, and a joint Jordanian/Palestinian-Israeli committee.

I would like now to reaffirm the Jordanian position regarding Palestinian participation. Jordan, which had taken the disengagement decision in 1988, prefers Palestinian participation to take place on the basis of an Israeli-Palestinian committee, that is, an independent Palestinian delegation to attend the conference. However, Jordan has no objection to providing an umbrella for the Palestinian delegation under which they can attend the conference through a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, if this would help in the convening of the conference, and if the Palestinian leadership accepts this procedure.

Second, regional issues of common interest to the countries of the region will be discussed in a third expanded committee—a committee in which countries other than those taking part in bilateral negotiations, including the Gulf Cooperation Council states, would participate. Among such regional issues are: resolving water and environmental problems, reducing weapons of mass destruction, and effecting social and economic balance among the peoples of the area through joint comprehensive development programs.

Third, UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 shall form the basis on which the conference will convene and the basis on which negotiations will be conducted. The conference will convene under the auspices of the United States of America and the Soviet Union, and will include a representative of the EC Presidency as well as a representative of the UN secretary general. The United States and the Soviet Union will inform the UN secretary general of the progress of the negotiations.

Fourth, agreements arrived at by the negotiating parties shall eventually be referred to the United Nations.

Fifth, a Jordanian shall head the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, but the Jordanians in the delegation shall negotiate the Jordanian dimension, while the Palestinians shall discuss the Palestinian dimension. The bilateral talks will afford both the Jordanian and Palestinian teams with an opportunity to present the central issues of mutual concern.

Sixth: The conference will provide all parties, including Jordan and the Palestinians, with an opportunity to make a full statement of their views.

Seventh: Any party at the conference has the right to raise any issue or subject it deems desirable and no other party shall have the right to object to any person attending or to anything said. Accordingly, any Arab or Palestinian position can be made known with all force and clarity without the slightest reservation.

Eighth: The Palestinian dimension shall be the only one discussed in two phases: The first is that of the agreement on the elements of the transitional period; and the second is that of agreement over the final status. There is a link between the two stages, represented by the commencement of negotiations on the second phase at the beginning of the third year of the implementation of the first phase. Final status negotiations shall include the subject of Arab Jerusalem to which the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 242 apply, in the same way the said provisions apply to the occupied West Bank.

Ninth: A core principle is that the terms of reference agreed upon for the first stage of negotiations will not affect or prejudge the way issues are resolved in the later stage, the stage of the final solution, and this is a basic principle.

Tenth: UN Security Council Resolution 242, as understood by the United States, the USSR, and the world, is applicable to all the Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war, including Arab Jerusalem. Resolution 242, as understood by these parties, is based on the principle of land for peace, and on the termination of the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories. The final status of Jerusalem, as far as the U.S. position is concerned, will be determined by negotiations providing that Jerusalem will not be divided as it had been prior to the 1967 war.

Eleventh: The United States assured Jordan that it shall do its utmost that negotiations pertaining to the transitional period will be concluded in one year. This means that it is not improbable for us to witness, within one year from the commencement of negotiations, the beginning of the termination of Israeli occupation, thus enabling our Palestinian brethren in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to take up their responsibilities of self-rule. [applause]

These are the most significant features of the proposed peace conference. As may be noticed, these features contain basic general principles such as adherence to the formula of land for peace, the application of Resolution 242 to all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem. These features also include some details, particularly those concerning Palestinian participation.

As I have said, we have welcomed this initiative from the beginning because it rests on international legitimacy. I have met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker every time he visited Jordan. I have also made several direct contacts with U.S. President Bush himself. Every time I met the secretary of state or contacted President Bush, I expressed our stance toward the elements of the initiative and our support for the peace that results from acceptable negotiations and rests on international legitimacy acknowledged worldwide. As you know, all the Arab parties involved have agreed to participate in the proposed peace conference, including the PLO.

I am pleased, in this regard, to express our great welcome of the decision adopted by the 20th Palestine National Council session in regard to the peace conference. It is indeed a responsible and positive decision which embodies the distinguished level that the brother representatives of the Palestinian people enjoy in regard to democratic practice, deep awareness, and commitment to their cause and their people who placed their confidence in them. The representatives of the Palestinian people have also earned worldwide appreciation since they have confirmed their credibility by opening the door to the efforts under way to reach a just peace and to resolve their issue peacefully .

Brothers, sisters, we are at a crossroads produced by global, regional, and national realities and circumstances that affect, as I have pointed out in this speech, every Jordanian and every Palestinian in the occupied homeland and in the diaspora. These realities and circumstances also affect our existence as a state and a nation and reflect on all facets of our national and pan-Arab existence, starting with the problem of unemployment and expanding this to include our national existence and pan-Arab security. These realities and circumstances, moreover, require an historic decision to participate in the peace conference which could, if it succeeds, enable us to transform these realities into positive forces that would transport us from one mood to another; from the gloomy mood of setbacks to a bright mood full of hope and comfort; from the mood of confrontation and its concomitant aspects—the suffering, anxiety, and pain that dominated our attitudes, thinking, and emotions for more than four decades—to a state of peace, security, stability, progress, and prosperity for the individual and the community; and from the state of no-war and no-peace and what accompanies it—continuation of the status quo and continuation of its certain evils—to safety and peace of mind which would make the talents and hopes of the youth blossom and tap the energies of achievement and creativity.

Consequently, in light of our full awareness of the facts and the regional and global balance of power; in light of the great suffering of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the oppressive policy they are being subjected to, as well as the increasing threats to their very existence on their soil as a result of immigration and settlement; and because Jordan is directly affected by everything that happens there, we in Jordan will participate in the peace conference. We will participate to protect ourselves, safeguard our country and people [applause], be able to lead a normal and natural life, halt the depletion of our resources and potential, and help the struggling Palestinian people who have so far endured what words fail to describe or portray. [applause]

In short, this is our decision which we have made for the sake of a just peace which renews our hopes for us, and puts an end to the status quo which, if maintained, will continue to gnaw at us bit by bit until it is too late. God willing, we will not be like those described by the Arab poet in the following lines:

They know not evil until it strikes them,

They realize not the result until it unfolds.

Let us wake up and put an end to the tendency for self-destruction in our thinking and mind-set. Let us stop being swept up by outbiddings and delusions. Let us heed God for our nation and children, present and future. Let us bear the responsibility and not escape from it, bequeathing it to the coming generations. Let us remember that the majority of Jordanians and Palestinians cannot afford the luxury of betting on the unknown. [applause]

Let me reveal this secret to you. As you know, I am on the threshold of my autumn years of shouldering responsibility. [applause] I am now in my 40th year on the throne, and at the beginning of my 39th year since I assumed my constitutional powers. Recently, a big question has been weighing heavily on me: Should I give in to the call within me to rest, or should I continue to shoulder responsibility toward you and with you? I contemplated the question and thought of the difficult circumstance our homeland is going through today. I concluded that seeking rest means evasion of responsibility. [applause] I decided to continue to shoulder my responsibilities in spite of the hardships involved [applause] in the hope that, with God's help, we will overcome this difficult phase and realize a better one for you, my brethren and children.

Praise be to God, for I fear none but Him. [applause] I thank Him for making me one of those who seek nothing in life other than His satisfaction, a clear conscience, and service of the nation, so that the judgment of future generations will be in their favor. [applause]

We rely on God and His guidance. We beseech the Almighty to help us shoulder this historic responsibility through which we seek His satisfaction and the well-being of our nation and people. With God we succeed. God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

More on King Husayn, Baker Talks in Amman

14 Oct Meeting

JN1410184591 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1801 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Talks between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker began a short while ago at Raghdan Palace. Mr. Baker arrived in Amman today within the framework of his eighth tour in the region. We move to Raghdan Palace, where our correspondent Kassab Samawai reports on the talks:

[Begin Samawi recording] Talks between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. secretary of state are continuing as we file this report. This session, which began at around 1830 today [14 October] is being attended for Jordan by His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty the king's political adviser, and the foreign minister. On the U.S. side, the attendees are Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern Affairs; Dennis Ross, director of the U.S. State Department's Policy Planning Staff; Edmund Hull, director of the Middle East Department at the National Security Council; Margaret Tutwiler, U.S. State Department spokeswoman; and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Talks between His Majesty King Husayn and the U.S. secretary of state are expected to deal with all issues related to the peace process, the arrangements and details achieved thus far regarding the peace conference and the positions of various parties, and certain points that still obstruct the conference, as well as a discussion of the details of the framework for the conference, its mechanism, its date and venues, the draft invitation, and other procedural matters.

Mr. Baker is also expected to explain the U.S. Administration's position on the Jordanian remarks and queries regarding the U.S. letter of assurances that Jordan has received. Through these queries and remarks, Jordan seeks to obtain more documented assurances concerning certain vital issues, like Israeli settlement activities, Jerusalem, and the issue of Palestinian representation. [passage omitted]

We are waiting for His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to hold their joint press conference at around 2100 today to talk about the content and outcome of the talks and the latest developments related to convening the peace conference. [passage omitted] Talks are still continuing. [end recording]

Baker—U.S. To Restore Aid

JN1510064991 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Report by 'Ali Hamati on joint news conference by King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker held in Amman on 14 October]

[Excerpts] His majesty the king started his discussion with the reporters by saying:

[Begin recording] [King Husayn] I would like to say how happy I am on this occasion to welcome once again my dear friend Secretary Baker, his colleagues, and you all here in Amman. Mr. Secretary, we have followed up and attempted to participate in your efforts to start a peace process that will lead to a just and durable peace in this region. We express our appreciation and gratitude for your honest efforts. I am very happy to have this opportunity to discuss with you all the developments, which so far have been promising and positive. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Baker, concerning Jordan and its role, and his majesty and his role in advancing the peace process, you have expressed your gratitude for what the Jordanians and his majesty have done. In what way will you be translating your appreciation to Jordan and his majesty in regard to aid, especially since you know how much Jordan has suffered?

[Baker, in English with superimposed Arabic translation] Let me answer you by saying that first, it is no secret that there were differences between Jordan and the United States about the consequences of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. That is no secret. We are making efforts to overcome these differences as a result of the good intentions of both sides. The United States has recently made a decision; in fact, President Bush made a decision to restore the U.S. aid program to Jordan in both its military and economic aspects. This was approved by the United States even before a difference of opinion came about. We are now discussing this subject with Congress to revive this aid. I am fully confident that this aid will be revived and provided once again. We will soon see additional aid being given to Jordan, on both the military and economic levels, as we used to see in the past.

Let me just conclude by saying that for many years, there was a strong relationship between Jordan and the United States. The objective of the United States and President Bush is to work hard to see relations strengthened once again. [end recording] [passage omitted]

King Meets With Top Palestinian Figures 15 Oct

JN1510150491 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court at noon today a delegation of Palestinian figures from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip made up of Hanan 'Ashrawi, Faysal al-Husayni, and Dr. Zakariya al-Agha.

His majesty exchanged views with the delegation on the political settlement efforts, preparations for the peace conference, and the importance of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination. The meeting was attended by senior officials.

Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri met with the delegation of Palestinian figures from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip at his office in the Prime Ministry this morning.

They reviewed the outcome of the latest talks held by the two sides—the Jordanian side in Amman and the Palestinian side in Washington—with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on the efforts to convene a Middle East peace conference.

In statements to journalists, Faysal al-Husayni described the delegation's meeting with the prime minister as positive. He said: The meeting was held within the series of Jordanian-Palestinian meetings to push the peace process forward and attain the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination, in addition to discussing the status of Jerusalem. He explained that the Jordanian and Palestinian positions are identical with regard to the issue of Jerusalem. He also said: We must wage the peace battle together. Al-Husayni praised His Majesty King Husayn's speech before the Jordanian National Congress last Saturday. He said: The king's speech represents Jordanian policy, which is identical to the Palestinian position as we know it. On the future of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, al-Husayni explained that these relations will be based on what the Palestine National Council has decided—that is, the proposal of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

'Highlights' of al-Husayni-'Ashrawi News Conference

JN1510162991 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The following are highlights of the news conference given by the delegation of the Palestinian figures, who represent the occupied territories and Gaza Strip, after meeting with Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri before noon today.

At the beginning of the news conference, Faysal al-Husayni spoke about the meeting between the delegation of the Palestinian figures and Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri. He said: "I think it is a positive meeting within the Palestinian-Jordanian meetings for pushing the process forward and implementing the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people."

On the issues discussed at the meeting, al-Husayni said: "I prefer to leave this issue for later, but there are subjects relating to the main causes—settlements, the right to self- determination, Jerusalem, and an equal Palestinian and Jordanian role. I think the political meetings which have taken place and which are going on now in Amman will positively affect the peace process."

On whether the delegation of the Palestinian figures will meet with PLO officials, al-Husayni said: "There is nothing that takes place in the Palestinian arena without a decision and approval of the PLO. Perhaps some other parties want to see the world and reality in a different color and put on glasses with different colored lenses. He who wants to put on glasses with different colored lenses to see things differently is free to do so; we work without glasses."

Al-Husayni commented on His Majesty King Husayn's speech delivered at the Jordanian National Congress and said: "We believe that the speech represents the Jordanian line, which is identical with the Palestinian position as we know it. There may be some procedural points which were in need, and are in need, of discussion again, but on the whole, we believe that the speech has not diverted from the acceptable positions."

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi replied to a question on U.S. efforts for establishing peace in the region and said: "First of all, I think there is a U.S. seriousness because the United States is concerned with the process and concerned with finding stability and peace in the region. But the United States is, actually, not concerned with the cause of justice or equality. Then who will pay the price of this stability? For the United States, it is a secondary question, and for us it is an essential one.

"As for the letter of assurances, it should be explained that it is a letter that represents the official U.S. political position and not the Palestinian stance. We are trying to develop the American position as much as we can and urge the U.S. to interpret its policy in a manner that conforms with, or comes closer as much as possible, to the Palestinian stance. We cannot expect the letter of assurances to include all the resolutions of the Palestine National Council, for example.

"Therefore, we cannot say that the letter meets the requisites as we demand. This remains an American position; we can accept or reject it as we wish, but the Palestinian stance continues to be clear, firm, and based on the Palestinian constants and principles which are based on the right to self-determination and other Palestinian constants. Therefore, we should not focus all attention on the letter of assurances because it is a U.S. political letter. We have to work for integrated Arab coordination; we have to work for a unified, strong, and clear Arab stance; and we have to work for moving

forward confidently and alertly in any process for realizing our inalienable national rights, and not allow this process to be exploited to force solutions that conflict with our rights."

[Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic at 1615 GMT carries a similar report on the above statements, adding the following: "Replying to a question on the issue of altering the head of the joint Jordanian- Palestinian delegation, Zakariyah al-Agha said: This issue is not a major problem, and an agreement on this issue has been reached with our Jordanian brothers aiming at reaching the best means for cooperation. There is no problem in this regard. Our relations are based on mutual respect and trust. Al-Agha stressed that the Palestinians in the diaspora are part of the Palestinian people, and that we will stress the need for a single representation for the Palestinian people in all the efforts being exerted."] 15 OCT 1737z sm

Karami, al-Husayni Leave for Damascus Meetings

NC1610064391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami and Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni left for Damascus a short while ago to take part in the Lebanese-Syrian Supreme Council meetings. President Ilyas al-Hirawi will leave for Damascus in a short while.

Al-Hirawi Departs for al-Biqa'

NC1610073091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi left the presidential office in Beirut for al-Biqa' this morning. It should be recalled that Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister 'Umar Karami left for al-Biqa' early today. The three top leaders will hold a meeting at the Park Hotel in Shtawrah before they leave for Damascus, where they will take part in the Lebanese-Syrian Supreme Council meetings.

First Meeting Postponed

NC1610092791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] The first meeting of the Lebanese-Syrian Supreme Council has been postponed until this afternoon. Political circles have said that the postponement may have been prompted by Secretary of State James Baker's Damascus visit, which is taking longer than expected. The three top leaders resumed their normal program for the day. President Ilyas al-Hirawi received U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Ryan Crocker this morning.

Israeli Siege Continues; Food Shortages Reported

NC1210121691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] 'Ayta al-Jabal and Haddathah are still being besieged by the Israeli occupation forces, amid repeated machine-gun attacks at the approaches and centers of the two villages. According to reports from the south, the enemy forces this morning opened machine-gun fire from their positions on 'Ayn Qinya and Jwayya hills in the liberated areas, but no casualties were reported.

Meanwhile, the siege on 'Ayta al-Jabal and Haddathah has begun to cause food shortages. The inhabitants have appealed to officials to speed up efforts to lift the siege, which is preventing entry or exit from the villages.

Israeli military movements have been observed in the areas of Marj 'Uyun and Hasbayya. An Israeli infantry force penetrated the operations area of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon in al-'Urqub, through Wadi Abu Qamhah, and reached the outskirts of Kafr Shuba and Rashayya al-Fukhkhar and combed the surrounding fields and valleys.

Israeli 'Blockade' Continues

NC1210162891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces' blockade of 'Ayta al-Jabal and Haddathah towns has entered its first week amid bursts of intermittent sniper fire directed at the approaches and centers of the two towns.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Bint Jubayl, who entered Haddathah town in one of the Irish contingent's military vehicles, said only 150 of the town's original 3,000 people still live there. Our correspondent added that the town's streets are empty and shops closed and that marks of shelling were evident on the buildings. He said the Irish force is on alert after one of its vehicles was hit by sniper fire on the Haddathah-'Ayta al-Jabal Road.

The town inhabitants addressed a fresh appeal to the officials and those who are able to act to do what they can to break the siege on their town and secure the return of evacuees to it.

Army Positions Under Fire

NC1610112991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] The Defense Ministry's Information Department [DMID] has issued a statement saying that the Army Command's Guidance Department informed it that the Army positions in Mlikh in the south have been coming under shelling from tanks and other weapons since 1000 today. The source of the shelling is the nearby positions of the Israeli forces and its allied militias. The DMID statement added that the Army units are returning fire to silence its sources.

'Awn: Many Officers 'Ready To Follow' Orders

NC1410174891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] Former Army Commander General Michel 'Awn told the newspaper AL-DIYAR today that hundreds of Army officers are sending him letters about their problems and telling him they are ready to follow any order he issues. We are not opposed to good relations with Syria within the framework of sovereignty, he added. 'Awn said that the Americans are trying to resume contacts with him through mutual and personal friends. He described the help, promises, and written commitments the regime obtained on Resolution 425 as bounced checks.

U.S. Secretary of State Arrives in Damascus 15 Oct

Al-Shar' Receives Baker

JN1510102791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Damascus at 1130 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. To receive him at Damascus airport were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', ranking Foreign Ministry officials, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Al-Asad Receives Baker

JN1510125091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1245 today U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his delegation. The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur.

Al-Asad-Baker Talks

JN1510185791 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker resumed their talks at 2000 today.

Attending the talks were the delegation accompanying Secretary Baker, and on the Syrian side Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur.

Talks Resume 16 Oct

JN1610103191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] At 1045 today, President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker resumed discussion of the topics dealt with in yesterday's two meetings concerning the peace process in the region and the proposed peace conference.

Attending the talks were Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur, and the delegation accompanying Secretary Baker.

No Final Reply to Baker Before Consulting With PLO

JN1510124591 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] In Damascus, a diplomatic source has announced that Syria will throw all its weight into supporting the PLO in its talks with Baker. The source added that Syrian officials will inform the U.S. secretary of state that they will only give him their final reply after consulting with the PLO.

In another development, a delegation from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] led by Fahd Sulayman, member of the DFLP Political Bureau, left for Paris today to hold political talks with the French Foreign Ministry and the French Socialist Party. A DFLP spokesman said that the talks will deal with the role of France and the EEC in support of the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people to the peace conference.

India

President Replies to Iliescu Letter on Abduction

BK1510165691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] The president, Mr. Venkataraman, has assured his Romanian counterpart that every effort is being made to trace the kidnapped Romanian diplomat and secure his safe release. In his reply to a communication received recently from the Romanian president, Mr. Ion Iliescu, Mr. Venkataraman said that India shares the anxiety and suffering of Mrs. Radu and her children. He called upon the international community to help in putting an end to kidnapping. The president said without outside support, it would be very difficult for terrorists to commit such crimes. The Romanian president in his communication had urged the Indian Government to do everything possible to obtain the release of Mr. Liviu Radu.

The police in a state neighboring Delhi have conducted raids on suspected hideouts of the kidnappers of the Romanian diplomat, Mr. Liviu Radu. Disclosing this to newsmen in the capital, a Delhi police spokesman declined to give further details about the raids. He, however, said that the Delhi police have sent search parties outside the capital and are awaiting their reports. The spokesman said there is no letup in the house-to-house search in New Delhi.

Center Wants Clarification on Land for Shrine

BK1610043691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] The center is understood to have sought further clarification from the Uttar Pradesh government on the aquisition of land in Ayodhya. Agency reports say that the center has already received a report from Lucknow. The state government has maintained that the land to be acquired does not form part of the disputed site and that all legal aspects had been considered before issuing the notification.

The general secretary of Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council], Mr. Ashoke Singal, has said that the construction work of the proposed Ram Temple at Ayodhya will begin soon, but he declined to announce the exact date of the commencement of the work. He was addressing a meeting of the parishad followers in Allahabad last evening.

Singh Demands U.P. Government Dismissal

BK1510143891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] The Congress-I has appealed to the Uttar Pradesh government not to precipitate the Ayodhya issue through the acquisition of land, saying that the avenues for a negotiated settlement have not been fully exhausted. Briefing newsmen, the party spokesman, Professor C.P. Thakur, urged all parties involved to exercise restraint as the reconstituted National Integration Council is to go into the matter. Describing the Ayodhya dispute as sub judice, Prof. Thakur also urged the home minister to take all necessary steps to prevent a confrontation.

The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, has said that his government has acquired the land in Ayodhya according to law and excluded the disputed structure. He told newsmen in Madras today that the center cannot interfere on the issue of notification to acquire the land. He said that the center sought some information and it has been furnished. In reply to a question, Mr. Singh said there is no proposal to construct a temple as on (?date), but added that it may start at any time.

The Janata Dal leader, Mr. V.P. Singh, has demanded the dismissal of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] government in Uttar Pradesh for acquiring, what he said, disputed land in Ayodhya. Talking to newsmen in Lucknow today, he also asked the center to make its stand clear on the Ayodhya issue.

Iran

President on U.S. Support for Israeli Actions

LD1110115191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] Delivering the sermons of this week's Tehran Friday prayers, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani strongly condemned the Zionist regime's continued aggressionist policies in the region and America's all-embracing support for that regime.

The president warned that 1.2 billion Muslims will react against such blatant acts. Condemning last week's violation of the airspace of several Arab countries by fighter planes of the Zionist regime, the Tehran Friday prayers imam believes that the reaction of Arab countries against such violations and the continuation of such blatant acts by the Zionists show the bitter and ugly events that torment the world of Islam.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also termed the Zionist invasion of East Jerusalem and the forced expulsion of Muslims from their homes in order to settle Zionists, which took place on the threshold of the alleged Middle East peace conference, as yet other blatant acts of aggression which, backed by America, are being committed against the sanctities and territories of Muslims.

Continuing his remarks, the president underlined that America's efforts to achieve recognition for the Jerusalem Qods occupying regime in the region is an historic mistake, because, even though the governments of some Arab countries might accept it, 1.2 billion Muslims will never agree to it. At the right opportunity, they will show their natural reaction.

In the prayer sermons, Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani explained major domestic issues. He referred to the prayers seminar held in Mashhad, his trip to regions of the north, the international trade fair in Tehran, and the issue of literacy in the country. Regarding the prayers seminar, he enumerated its blessings for individuals and society, and called on all to abide by this obligation.

Giving a brief report on his tour of parts of East Azerbaijan and Gilan, the president expressed full satisfaction and praised the people of these regions for their lofty revolutionary morale. He said that the region's natural resources are ample and right for investment and exploitation.

Praising the recent Tehran international trade fair, Mr. Hashemi- Rafsanjani said that it was very promising. He said that the participation of foreign countries in the fair confirms the progress of the country's industries and its importance in that field.

The Tehran Friday prayers imam also raised the issue of the literacy campaign in the country, which so far has been very successful. He said that the trend will continue vigorously.

U.S. Aiming To 'Save' Israel

NC1110134191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Friday sermon delivered by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 11 October—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Thanks be to God and peace be with the messenger of God and the pious followers of God. Last week we Muslims witnessed a bitter event when Israeli aircraft brazenly violated the airspace of a number of Islamic Arab countries. Regrettably, this brazen act did not receive the appropriate response from the countries concerned or from international organizations. If dissatisfaction was expressed, it was subdued and muted.

More than anything else, this bitter event must be a lesson to Iraq's rulers, who were the main reason for this event. This is because of their illogical acts, which do not conform with and are hostile to Islam and mankind. By committing aggression against Islamic Iran 10 years ago, Iraq's rulers were responsible for creating the current differences, disputes, and divisions within the Islamic world and within the Arab world itself. They gave Israel the opportunity to consolidate its stands and to strengthen its military and political capabilities. The imposed war destroyed much of the Islamic world's capabilities and led to the shedding of Muslim blood. While the negative results of this aggression still existed, Iraq committed another aggression on a neighboring country when the Iraqi Ba'thist Army occupied Kuwait. Because of the weakness of the southern Persian gulf countries and the greed of the arrogant forces, we witnessed a miserable and regrettable situation. We saw the arrogant military forces consolidate a large-scale presence in the region. Political factors were used to achieve more influence and presence for the arrogant forces, especially the United States, in the region. We thus saw discord reach its peak in the Arab world.

Usurping Israel benefited greatly from this situation. The United States is now striving to save Israel and to crush Palestinian goals. The United States is trying to squander the fruit of half a century of the Palestinian people's struggle and to deal them a deadly blow in the name of peace. The United States is seeking to achieve official recognition of illegitimate Israel from the Islamic countries.

Oddly enough, despite the fact that the arrogant forces are trying to keep appearances, Israel does not see a need for this. It is insolently doing what it wants. It is baring its teeth and flexing its muscles with the aim of threatening Arab countries.

We hope Muslims will take a lesson from this situation and will work to achieve Islamic unity and solidarity.

I take refuge in God from the evil one. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Say: He is God, the one and only; God, the eternal and absolute. He begetteth not, nor is he begotten. And there is none like unto him. [Koranic verse] May God's peace and prayer be with you.

Besharati: Velayati to Visit Moscow 'Soon'

LD1410093191 Tehran IRNA in English 0846 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 14, IRNA--A high-ranking Foreign Ministry official disclosed that Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati is to visit Moscow 'shortly', a morning daily reported Monday.

First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati told the English-language daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' that the visit "is important" but declined to give further details including date of the visit. Besharati said that Iran and the Soviet Union had a 2,500-km long joint border, adding that Tehran-Moscow economic and commercial relations would further increase in various fields. He pointed to the recent failed coup attempt in the Soviet Union and the difficulties Moscow was presently facing and stressed, "We are ready to cooperate with this country for overcoming its present bottlenecks in the economic area."

As for the recent developments in Iraq and the Western position toward that country, the Foreign Ministry official noted: "We are sorry for what is going on in Iraq. After all, Iraq is an Islamic country." But, he stressed, "What can you do when a wrong and deviant policy is adopted by that country...Iraq has showed unrelenting

enmity toward us and brought all known mishaps to our nation, but we still feel sorry for what is going on there."

As for Tehran-Ankara relations, Besharati said: "It (Turkey) is our neighbour and we have cordial relations and have no problems...We have 444 kilometers of borders with Turkey and the turnout in bilateral trade amounts to drls. 3 billion annually."

Pakistan

President Terms Saudi Trip 'Extremely Successful'

BK1110042191 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has described his visit to Saudi Arabia as extremely successful and said it will further promote understanding between the two fraternal Muslim nations on various regional and international issues. In a statement on his return to Islamabad last night, he said various issues concerning the Islamic world, the liberation of the occupied territories of the world's Muslims, Kashmir, Afghanistan, the Middle East, and the Gulf were particularly discussed during his talks with King Fahd.

On Kashmir, he apprised the Saudi king of the Kashmiris' right to self determination and the violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir. He briefed King Fahd on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's efforts toward a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue. King Fahd expressed full support for Pakistan's stand on Kashmir.

On Afghanistan, the two agreed that it is imperative to take advantage of the prevailing situation to obtain a political solution to the Afghan issue. King Fahd said the sacrifices made by the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan in the struggle for the restoration of Afghanistan's independence and sovereignty, as well as its nonaligned and Islamic status, are praiseworthy.

The president briefed King Fahd on the current condition of relations between Pakistan and the United States and Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's proposal for nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia. The custodian of the two holy places of Saudi Arabia supported Pakistan's stand on nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia.

There was a complete unanimity of views between the two countries on the situation in the Middle East. The president expressed the hope that the Middle East peace conference will help to restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

On the Gulf, Ghulam Ishaq Khan said Pakistan views with respect the principled stand adopted by Saudi Arabia against aggression.

On behalf of the government and the people of Saudi Arabia, King Fahd thanked Pakistan for its meaningful support in upholding recognized international norms. He expressed the hope that Pakistan would continue to play its role for promoting understanding, peace, and stability in the region.

Both leaders welcomed the recent changes in the Central Asian republics of the Soviet Union. These changes will now enable the people of the region to establish close economic and cultural ties with the member countries of the Islamic Conference Organization.

During their talks, which were held in an atmosphere of total trust and harmony, the leaders exchanged views on ways to strengthen solidarity among all the world's Muslims. They stressed the need to establish such institutions in Islamic countries that will provide a solid basis for cooperation and collaboration in the Islamic world.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan said the government and the people of Pakistan view with extreme respect the services rendered by the Saudi king toward making excellent arrangements during the haj pilgrimage.

Earlier, talking to reporters on board his special aircraft on his way back home, the president expressed total satisfaction over his talks with King Fahd and said there is complete unanimity in their views on all bilateral and regional issues.

Islamabad Confirms Release of Chinese Engineer

BK1110132291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] The Chinese engineer, Mr. Zhang Yongcheng, and two others kidnapped by dacoits [bandits] in Mirpur Khas yesterday, were released by the law enforcing agencies today. This was stated by the federal interior minister, Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, while addressing a news conference in Islamabad today. He said in the process two men of the law enforcing agencies lost their lives. The Chinese engineer received some minor wounds in the head, but he is out of danger and recovering. Chaudhary Shujat Hussain said the law enforcing agencies carried out a successful operation and recovered the kidnapped persons. Efforts to arrest the dacoits are continuing.

Sri Lanka

Elections Offered if LTTE Lays Down Arms

BK1410114491 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa states that the government is prepared to hold elections of the Northeast Provincial Council if the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] lays down arms and agrees to contest the elections along with other parties. The president addressing the miladun nabi [Muslim] celebrations at Zahira College, Puttalam, said that the people of Northeast could be entrusted with such a responsibility in

order to ascertain their preferences. The president reiterated that the idea that the people of the Northeast had given the responsibility only to a single party is not acceptable. The president said that as a country where the democratic system was in existence, the government always held elections to feel the pulse of the people in the resolution of problems. He said that he believed that universal franchise was paramount.

The president recalled that during the past two and a half years the government held several elections. He said that the opposition maintained that elections were not necessary. He said that this demonstrated the fact that they were not prepared to go before the people, but intended to achieve power through the back door. Mr. Premadasa said that the public had no faith in such people. President Premadasa said that the causes of terrorism in the north and east during the past 17 years should be subjected to scrutiny. He said that after 1971, a special investigation was undertaken in order to resolve the ethnic problem. As a result, district development councils came into existence in 1980. The democratic parties in Northeast have accepted this system.

Mr. Premadasa recalled the discussions held by the former president with the Tamil United Liberation Front regarding the decentralizing of powers. The president described his visit to the north in 1981 and said that the people were of the opinion that the district development councils could succeed. However, the president recalled, that in elections held in the north, certain individuals, who identify themselves today as democratic leaders, took undesirable elements from other areas and created chaos resulting in vandalism. He said these individuals were responsible for setting fire to the priceless Jaffna library. The president queried as to whether these individuals who then said that power could not be given to the north brought the Indian Army into this country after signing the India-Sri Lanka Agreement to resolve the problem. He said that they were responsible for weakening the democratic parties in the Northeast. The youth belonging to the (?regional) parties then resorted to war. The president said that terrorism and violence are the end results of a weak democratic party set up. The president maintained that Muslim democratic parties should be strong to withdstand just pressures and that their just demands should always be granted.

Group Condemns Impeachment, No-Trust Motions

BK1010151091 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] The government parliamentary group has unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party], the MEP [Mahajana Eksath Peramuna], the USA [United Socialist Alliance], along with the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] opposition parties for their antinational, unpatriotic, undemocratic, irresponsible, and reactionary behavior and activities. It has said that these earned the vehement and unreserved condemnation of the government parliamentary group. The resolution said that the SLFP, the MEP, the USA, and the EPRLF had given notice of a resolution to impeach the president who was democratically elected by the people in December 1988 for a term of six years. By such action they had revealed their antipeople character and their intent to thwart the will of the people. They attempted to come to power without facing the people at the elections through their manipulation of the constitutional provisions by dubious and questionable means. The resolution said that these parties had moved a motion of no-confidence on the government as a matter of grave urgency and importance on spurious grounds that the government had supplied arms to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. These parties abdicated their responsibility to place evidence before the house and the people when the opportunity was provided by the government of an early date to debate this motion of no-confidence. The resolution further said that these attempts were calculated to undermine faith in the president who is the commander in chief of security forces, and, therefore, attempted to spread disaffection among the security forces and to undermine their morale at a time when they were waging a valiant and successful struggle to resolve law and order and safeguard the unity, the integrity, and sovereignty of this country.

The government parliamentary group, which met yesterday, unanimously decided to vote against the motion of no-confidence to be moved by some opposition parties against the speaker, M.H. Mohamed. The group was of the opinion that the speaker had made a correct decision in accordance with the Constitution and the law of the country. It also decided against the holding of a secret ballot on the no-confidence motion against the speaker.

The group also unanimously decided to reject two appeals sent to the chief government whip by two dissident MP's—R.A. Rathajayatilake and S.A. Muthubanda—seeking permission of the group to vote for the motion of no-confidence against the speaker. In their letters they had stated that they were signatories to the impeachment motion.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa who presided over today's group meeting said that the members of the government parliamentary group, by voting against the no-confidence motion against the speaker, will themselves be showing their solidarity and vindicate the decision of the speaker on the impeachment motion. The president said that 116 members of parliament of the group had signed two documents expressing their opposition to the impeachment motion, stating that even if their signatures appeared on the motion, they had been obtained through misrepresentation. By defeating the motion of no-confidence against the speaker, they could show that more than half the number of members of parliament felt the speaker's ruling was correct, that the

impeachment did not have the support of more than half the number of members of parliament. The president said that it was strange how the speaker, who was the best speaker in the world to the opposition, had overnight become bad.

The president said that the no-confidence motion, which the opposition had moved and had lapsed, was intended to tarnish the image of the government abroad, particularly with India. But all their efforts have ended in disaster. The president said that the director of the third region of the World Bank, who met him yesterday, commended the performance of Sri Lanka during the past two and half years and had told that they were confident with the ongoing programs, inflation would come down further, and employment opportunities increased. However, due to the misrepresentation of facts abroad, certain people abroad had not got the correct picture. Therefore, the resolution moved by Mr. Dharmadasa Banda would help to clear the air.

Speaker Tenders Resignation, Not Accepted

BK1510131691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] The speaker of the Sri Lankan parliament, Mr. M.H. Mohamed, has resigned. Our Colombo correspondent understands that the resignation letter submitted to the president two days ago and revealed today has not been accepted by Mr. Premadasa. Last week an opposition-sponsored no-confidence motion against the speaker, supported by ruling party dissidents, was defeated in parliament after a stormy debate.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lanka Supreme Court has dismissed a renewed attempt to impeach President Premadasa. The three-bench court described the petition filed by the president of the Independent Lawyers Association, Mr. D. (Gomes), as utterly misconceived. The petitioner alleged that the parliamentary speaker Mr. Mohamed's order, rejecting the impeachment motion last week, had violated the constitution.

Speaker Denies Resigning

BK1610040091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 16 Oct GMT 0245 91

[Text] The speaker of the Sri Lankan parliament, Mr. M.H. Mohamed, has denied that he had resigned. Mr. Mohamed told our Colombo correspondent that the report is baseless and he continues to be the speaker of the parliament.